

Your Role: Moderator

Thomas S. is a 14-year-old high school student. During the winter holidays with his friends, he was injured in a bad skiing accident. The accident caused irreparable damage to his cervical spine, and he suffered neurological and functional damage similar to a complete spinal cord injury. Thomas is now returning to school. Although Thomas has an incomplete quadriplegia (lesion level C5-C6), he lives his life as independently as possible. He looks for ways to help and inspire others. He eats healthy and keeps his body moving. Thanks to these activities, he is able to minimize secondary complications to a minimum. In addition, he uses his situation to inspire other People with disabilities around the world. On Instagram he describes his daily life and the everyday challenges, that people with disabilities face. Occasionally, he broadcasts livestream videos of his rehabilitation sessions to show how wearable rehabilitation robots can help him improve his life.

Lead the discussion with the help of the 4 questions below. Take notes and summarize the important highlights.

Leading Questions:

1. What can each of you do to make Thomas feel more included at school?
2. What can you do to help Thomas in his daily life?
3. What are the challenges you face in your role?
4. How can technological assistance systems support Thomas? When will he still have to rely on the help of his classmates?

Scenario Thomas



Your Role: Thomas

Thomas S. is a 14-year-old high school student. During the winter holidays with his friends, he was injured in a bad skiing accident. The accident caused irreparable damage to his cervical spine, and he suffered neurological and functional damage similar to a complete spinal cord injury. Thomas is now returning to school. Although Thomas has an incomplete quadriplegia (lesion level C5-C6), he lives his life as independently as possible. He looks for ways to help and inspire others. He eats healthy and keeps his body moving. Thanks to these activities, he is able to minimize secondary complications to a minimum. In addition, he uses his situation to inspire other People with disabilities around the world. On Instagram he describes his daily life and the everyday challenges, that people with disabilities face. Occasionally, he broadcasts livestream videos of his rehabilitation sessions to show how wearable rehabilitation robots can help him improve his life.

Things to Consider:

- **Does it bother Thomas to be treated differently?**
- **How does he feel about standing out from the others?**
- **Does it bother him to ask for help?**
- **Is he concerned about what other students think?**

Scenario Thomas



Your Role: Classmate

Thomas S. is a 14-year-old high school student. During the winter holidays with his friends, he was injured in a bad skiing accident. The accident caused irreparable damage to his cervical spine, and he suffered neurological and functional damage similar to a complete spinal cord injury. Thomas is now returning to school. Although Thomas has an incomplete quadriplegia (lesion level C5-C6), he lives his life as independently as possible. He looks for ways to help and inspire others. He eats healthy and keeps his body moving. Thanks to these activities, he is able to minimize secondary complications to a minimum. In addition, he uses his situation to inspire other People with disabilities around the world. On Instagram he describes his daily life and the everyday challenges, that people with disabilities face. Occasionally, he broadcasts livestream videos of his rehabilitation sessions to show how wearable rehabilitation robots can help him improve his life.

Things to Consider:

- **Do you think Thomas is treated differently because of his disability?**
- **If so, in what ways?**
- **Would you offer Thomas your help? If so, in what areas?**

Scenario Thomas



Your Role: Teacher

Thomas S. is a 14-year-old high school student. During the winter holidays with his friends, he was injured in a bad skiing accident. The accident caused irreparable damage to his cervical spine, and he suffered neurological and functional damage similar to a complete spinal cord injury. Thomas is now returning to school. Although Thomas has an incomplete quadriplegia (lesion level C5-C6), he lives his life as independently as possible. He looks for ways to help and inspire others. He eats healthy and keeps his body moving. Thanks to these activities, he is able to minimize secondary complications to a minimum. In addition, he uses his situation to inspire other People with disabilities around the world. On Instagram he describes his daily life and the everyday challenges, that people with disabilities face. Occasionally, he broadcasts livestream videos of his rehabilitation sessions to show how wearable rehabilitation robots can help him improve his life.

Things to Consider:

- **Are you concerned about favoring or disfavoring Thomas?**
- **Do you feel that you can provide Thomas with the support he needs in order to keep up with the other students?**
- **Does this have an impact on the other students and in the class?**

Scenario Thomas



Your Role: Principal

Thomas S. is a 14-year-old high school student. During the winter holidays with his friends, he was injured in a bad skiing accident. The accident caused irreparable damage to his cervical spine, and he suffered neurological and functional damage similar to a complete spinal cord injury. Thomas is now returning to school. Although Thomas has an incomplete quadriplegia (lesion level C5-C6), he lives his life as independently as possible. He looks for ways to help and inspire others. He eats healthy and keeps his body moving. Thanks to these activities, he is able to minimize secondary complications to a minimum. In addition, he uses his situation to inspire other People with disabilities around the world. On Instagram he describes his daily life and the everyday challenges, that people with disabilities face. Occasionally, he broadcasts livestream videos of his rehabilitation sessions to show how wearable rehabilitation robots can help him improve his life.

Things to Consider:

- **How much support can be offered and provided by the school?**
- **Are there financial or staffing constraints to consider?**
- **Will this put the other students at a disadvantage?**

Scenario Thomas

