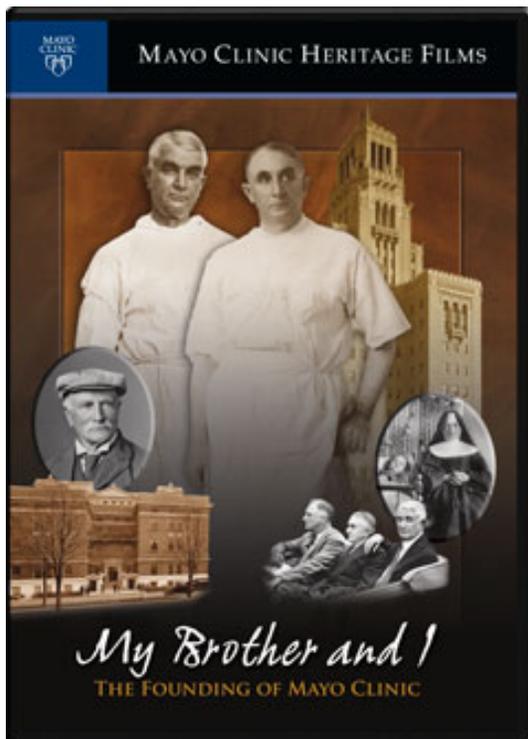




## Mayo Clinic Heritage Films Discussion Guide

### My Brother and I: The Founding of Mayo Clinic



William and Charles Mayo, sons of a country doctor in Rochester, Minnesota, said they were “raised as doctors, as farm boys are raised to farm.” The Mayos believed in putting the needs of the patient first and practicing in a cooperative approach to medicine. Their early associates included a remarkable collection of men and women, including an order of Franciscan Sisters who built and managed the hospital that became the centerpiece of their practice. This documentary tells the story of “Dr. Will” and “Dr. Charlie,” and how their “clinic in the cornfield” became one of the world’s leading medical centers.

## Discussion Questions

1. What do you think are the most important lessons the Mayo brothers learned from their parents?
2. How did the Mayo brothers learn about cooperation in their family, and how did they extend that approach to the Clinic?
3. Why did so many brilliant people choose to work with the Mayos in a small town?
4. Describe how the Mayos started practicing at a pivotal moment in the history of medicine. Do you think they would have been as successful and influential if they had started twenty years earlier or later?
5. Why do you think the Mayo brothers and the Sisters of St. Francis had such a mutually respectful and productive relationship?
6. Why were the Mayos so committed to supporting medical education and research?
7. What does it mean to work in a “union of forces” and “put the needs of the patient first”?