

Disability in Literature Current Events Paper

In order to keep the class (and our discussions) connected to current issues, trends, and ideas about disability, and to make sure that we cover a wide range of disabilities and areas of interest, for this paper assignment, I'm asking you to find a recent article (from the past year) about an issue related to disability, and write a brief paper about it; you will also need to **briefly** summarize your article in class discussion. Here are the things you need to do:

1. Find an article of interest to you that is related to disability. I am leaving this intentionally broad so that you can find something that interests you.

Possible topics (these are not meant to limit you – e-mail me if you have questions!:

- A specific disability
- A new treatment for a specific disability
- A profile of a person with a particular disability
- Legal cases/issues related to a disability or disability in general

Places you might look (again, not meant to limit; just suggestions):

- General news websites, such as CNN or the *New York Times*: just do a search on the sites for disability or for a specific issue that interests you
 - You might also look to some other Disability news sources:
 - Disability Scoop (on Developmental Disabilities) <http://www.disabilityscoop.com/>
 - Disability News Service: <http://disabilitynewsservice.com/>
 - Disabled-World (Canada): <http://www.disabled-world.com/>
 - I do recommend that you check to see that your source is reliable and credible; you should avoid, for instance, anti-vaxer sites, or TMZ or other sites with a dubious reputation.
2. By 5pm on Thursday, 8 October, please e-mail me a working link to your article. This will allow me to prepare for class discussion.
 3. Write a paper of at least 3 pages about the article. Here is what you should include:
 - The title of the article and the source (for instance “New Technology for the Blind,” from *The New York Times*)
 - Provide a brief summary/explanation of the article.
 - Include at least one quote from the article, but be careful not to quote too much (I can read the article itself, so don't let this section go on too long).
 - Respond to the quote – what about that quote seems important, remarkable, confusing, or otherwise notable?
 - Why is this article important and/or Why did you choose it?
 - What does this article tell us about the status of disability?
 - How does this article connect with (or build on) things we've been working on in class? If it relates to something we've already covered (like, say, autism spectrum disorders) then what new does this article add to our discussion? If this doesn't directly relate to something we've already covered, what new issues does it raise, and how might it build on what we've done so far?
 - What follow-up questions might you ask the class about issues raised in this article?
 - What kind of source is this? Is it reliable? Popular? Scholarly? What assumptions does this source make about the audience? Where might you go for additional information?
 4. Come to class on **Friday October 9th** with your completed paper **and** be able to **briefly** introduce/discuss your article with the class. This is really just a 30-second-ish discussion opener. It is NOT a formal presentation, and you do not need to stand in front of the class. But you will be called on to tell us about your article and your response to it. I will put your article (NOT your paper) up on the projector, too.

In class on Friday, October 9th: Be prepared to discuss your own article and join in the conversation about other students' articles. We'll have a chance to exchange papers and learn about the latest news relating to Disability issues. **YOU MUST HAVE A PAPER IN CLASS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES!**

**Disability in Literature News Article
Evaluation Rubric**

	No		Yes
E-mailed article prior to class by due date			
Prepared for brief (1 min) introduction to class			
Paper in class on time for class activity			
<i>The elements below outline the things I will be looking for in your paper; note that they are not in a particular order; you should develop your own organizational structure that works for your own paper.</i>	Needs work	Acceptable	Exceptional
Introduction: Opening paragraph introduces the story, provides an opening that draws the reader in and sets up the paper to follow.			
Summary: Paper includes a clear summary of the article, carefully and correctly representing its topic and approach.			
Quotations: Paper includes at least one appropriate and properly cited quotation from the article.			
Article Analysis: Paper includes analysis of the quote and of the article. This includes evaluation of and response to the information in the article.			
Process Analysis: Paper includes an explanation of how/why this article was chosen and why it matters (to the author and/or to the course).			
Connections: Paper explains clearly how the article/topic is connected to the course and draws conclusions from that, explaining its significance to the course and/or the larger concept of disability.			
Evaluation of Source: Is the source scholarly? Popular? Reliable? Why? What other sources might augment this?			
Organization: The organization of the paper makes sense, with appropriate paragraph breaks (you might try an outline!)			
Writing: The paper is written in clear, thoughtful, error-free, college-level prose with good detail and clarity.			

Important (and perhaps surprising) information: Yes! You can say “I” in this paper. If you’re talking about why you chose it, or what interested you about it, it definitely makes sense to say “I”!

Also important: please make sure that you are not “recycling” information, stories, or articles that you have used for another course or that you know already from experience. If you have a particular topic that is near and dear to your heart, go seek out something new that you haven’t read before. This is a chance to find out something new (and to share it with the rest of us!).

Finally: It is entirely possible that someone else will choose the same article as you. That is OK. That said, if you happen to be working with a friend who is in the course, please do not choose the same article.