



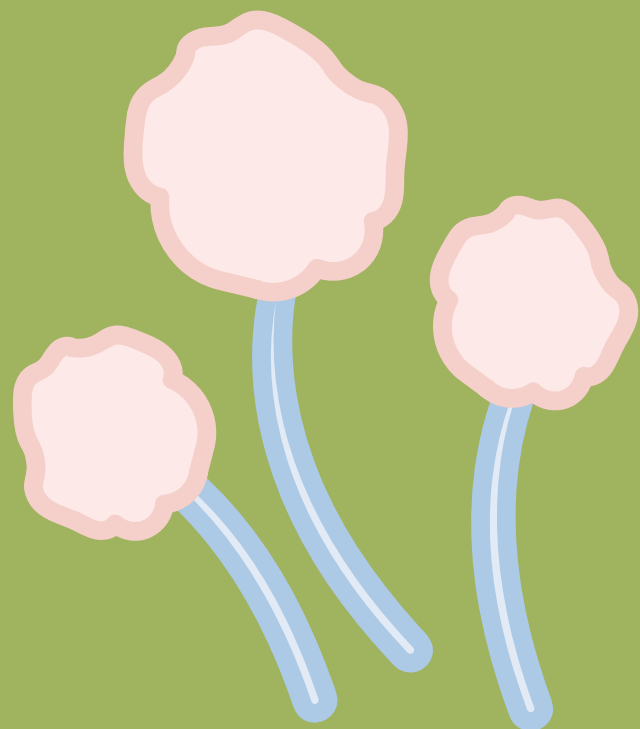
DiSABiLiTY

viSiBiLiTY

Diorama Project

Myriam Wilkes

SPED 854



Being

The peculiar drama of my life has placed me in a world that by and large thinks it would be better if people like me did not exist. My fight has ben for accomodation, the world to me and me to the world.

Harriet McBryde Johnson

Unspeakable Conversations

In "Unspeakable Conversations," Harriet McBryde Johnson, a disability rights lawyer with a neuromuscular disease, shares her experience debating Peter Singer, a bioethicist who supports infanticide and the euthanasia of severely disabled infants. As a parent of a child with a disability, Johnson's story is particularly resonant. She argues that disabled individuals can live valuable and fulfilling lives, opposing Singer's dehumanizing views. Furthermore, her reflections on the necessity of engaging with opposing and controversial perspectives highlight the importance of advocating for the inherent dignity and worth of all people, regardless of their disabilities and differences. This essay underscores the critical need to challenge prejudiced beliefs and fight for a society that respects and values every individual.





If You Can't Fast, Give

" Maysoon Zayid, a disabled Muslim woman with cerebral palsy, shares her experience of observing Ramadan in "If You Can't Fast, Give". Unable to fast due to her disability, she instead focuses on charity, good deeds, and spending time with loved ones. Zayid emphasizes that Ramadan's true essence includes compassion, community, and personal growth. In her essay, she advocates for an inclusive understanding of religious practices, emphasizing that those who cannot fast still be valued in the Muslim community. Zayid calls for acceptance and accommodation, ensuring that everyone can participate in the spirit of Ramadan. Her essay is a powerful reminder of the importance of inclusivity and the various ways one can observe and honor religious traditions.



Becoming

Taking up space as a disabled person is always revolutionary
Sandy Ho



The Freedom of Being Loud



As a disabled Asian-American woman, Sandy Ho shares her journey of empowerment in reclaiming her voice and identity in "Canfei to Canji: The Freedom of Being Loud." Through personal anecdotes, she navigates the intersectionality of her identity, confronting societal and general stereotypes about disability, race, and gender. Ho recounts experiences of marginalization and silence but discovers empowerment through embracing her identity and finding solidarity within the disability community. Her essay deeply resonates with me as a mom of a disabled child as she describes her experiences of feeling isolated and unheard, both within society at large. However, through embracing her identity and finding solidarity in the disability community, Ho discovers the power of speaking out and advocating for herself and others. Her activism and advocacy work amplify the voices of disabled individuals, challenge ableist norms, and push for inclusivity and representation. Her essay is a powerful testament to the importance of reclaiming one's voice and the transformative impact of collective action in fostering social change and empowerment for marginalized communities. As a parent, it inspires me to support and encourage my child to embrace their identity and advocate for their rights and inclusion.



We Can't Go Back

Ricardo Thornton shares his journey as an intellectually disabled individual, focusing on the profound impact of leaving institutional life. As a mother of an intellectually disabled child, Thornton's story resonates with me deeply. He describes the harsh realities of growing up in an institution, where he faced significant limitations and hardships. However, after leaving the institution, as he gained independence, his life changed dramatically. He found employment and built meaningful relationships. Thornton's narrative underscores the importance of community inclusion and the right for individuals with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives outside of institutions. His story serves as a powerful reminder of the progress in disability rights and the need to critically continue advocating for inclusion and equality, ensuring that we never return to the outdated practice of institutionalization.

Doing

There is so much that able-bodied people could learn from the wisdom that often comes with disability. But space needs to be made. Hands needs to be reached out. people need to be lifted up.

A.H. Reaume

The Anti-Abortion Bill You Aren't Hearing About

In "The Anti-Abortion Bill You Aren't Hearing About," Rebecca Cokley addresses a lesser-known anti-abortion bill that aims to ban abortions based on a diagnosis of a disability, such as Down syndrome. Cokley argues that these bills, while appearing to advocate for the disabled, actually undermine reproductive rights and do not address the real challenges faced by people with disabilities. She contends that true support for the disabled should focus on enhancing support systems, healthcare, and inclusion, rather than restricting reproductive choices. Cokley's essay emphasizes the need for comprehensive policies that support the well-being and autonomy of individuals with disabilities, advocating for a balanced approach that respects both disability rights and reproductive rights.

Lost Cause

"Lost Cause" by Reyma McDeid is a powerful essay on how society views and treats disabled individuals. McDeid calls for a re-evaluation of these perceptions and advocates for greater support and inclusion after she suffered from ableism, discrimination, and racism throughout her life. Through personal stories within her own family and a critical examination of systemic barriers, McDeid makes a case for recognizing the value and potential of every person, regardless of their disabilities. This essay is an important read for understanding the need for inclusive practices and policies that uplift rather than marginalize disabled individuals. McDeid urges a shift in perspective and policy. She calls for investment in and support for disabled individuals through inclusive systems that recognize and accommodate diverse needs.

Connecting

Disability justice exists every place two disabled people meet, at a kitchen table.
on healing pads in bed talking to our loves.
Leah Lakshmu Piepzn-Samarasinha



To Survive Climate Catastrophe

Patty Berne suggests that queer and disabled communities provide crucial leadership and tactics to tackle climate change, leveraging their distinct resilience and adaptability. By drawing on their daily struggles against systemic obstacles, these communities demonstrate a valuable "gritty persistence" essential during crises. Berne emphasizes the importance of acknowledging the interconnections among different forms of oppression and the need for inclusive climate justice. She advocates for comprehensive and inclusive approaches that value biodiversity and the input of all community members to establish resilient systems that can withstand environmental shifts.

Benjamin Lay

Eugene Grant, in his essay, spoke about Lay, who had dwarfism, advocacy against slavery, and for the rights of people with disabilities. Grant highlighted Lay's courageous actions and unwavering commitment to justice despite his physical challenges. Grant's narrative captured Lay's defiance against societal norms and his inspirational impact on the abolitionist movement. The essay explores Lay's lasting legacy and contributions to disability rights and social justice, offering readers insight into his remarkable life and activism. Grant, who is a "proud dwarf person," not only views Lay as a role model but also will share bedtime stories with his future kids to highlight the heroism of Lay.

References

Wong, A. (2020). *Disability visibility: First-person stories from the twenty-first century*. Vintage Books, a division of Penguin Random House