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Disability Communication and How Society Needs to Be More Inclusive

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Background

The language that society uses to talk about people with disabilities is used to discriminate and make them feel othered. Society needs to learn, and those with disabilities need to teach what the appropriate language should be to create a more inclusive society.

References

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Disability Communication and How Society Needs to Change to Be More Inclusive

Society's Current Language Is Not Inclusive

"Feeble-minded, moron, mentally deficient, retarded, handicapped... contribute to feelings of stigmatization and discrimination against people with disabilities" (Ziegler, p. 1183)

Discrimination, Oppression, and being "Normal"

"works to mark and construct disability as surplus, improper, lesser, or otherwise *other*—and none of them actually directly defines what "normal" is, except via an excessive exnomination" (Dolmage, p. 31).

What We See and Hear Influence How We Perceive People With Disabilities

"Overcoming or Compensation: ...the "super crip." In this myth, the connection between disability and compensatory ability is intentional and required" (Dolmage, p. 39)

Language Has Power

"In traditional accounts of disability, people with impairments think they are at fault. Language such as "invalid" reinforces a sense of personal deficit and failure. The focus is on the individual, and on her limitations of body and brain" (Shakespeare, p. 198)



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Not Having an inclusive society is a bad thing.