

# Culturing - Luke M.

Examining the disabled and the assumptions people make of them.  
How do you create awareness and understanding of the disabled and their problems?

# Story

Story 1 - A young adult is tantruming out in public and is looked at with looks of confusion and anger.

Story 2 - A disabled person is criticised and argued against because they are using a disabled toilet even though they are able to walk. In this case they are uneducated to the fact that disabilities can be physical manifestations but also “invisible” (intellectual).

Story 3 - A chair is denied to the disabled because they are not in a wheelchair.

When a disabled person is out in the community, depending on their physical appearance, people can assume someone is normal but not realise they are different.

An example of this is if a disabled person stood in the middle of a sidewalk but did not move.

# Artefacte

Society's prejudices are manifested through actions and attitudes. These attitudes can either be negative or positive.

Seeing a person in a wheelchair, with a prosthetic leg, or even someone with downs syndrome (visually clear disabilities) usually causes people to treat them kindly. Whether it be to allow them to exit the bus first or having assistance with entering or exiting public transport.

Either way, the reaction to a person with a visible disability is based on a predisposition to treat unusual people differently.

It is somewhat similar for people who seem normal but are disabled in an obscure way. These people are usually met with strange looks when social cues are not adhered to or with anger when a "societal law" is broken. These less obviously disabled people are usually met with negative attitudes.

# Language

When encountering people on a day to day basis, assumptions towards a certain group of people or a person are made and can be either be positive or negative. Assumptions manifest themselves through speech which in turn

**Positive** - Positive attitudes through language can be expressed through encouragement or friendly interaction with the disabled. People understanding of the condition or situation of a disabled person is lenient in their reaction to an unusual action or statement.

**Negative** - The key difference between positive and negative language is a lack of empathy, and kindness. People can choose to become defensive or even abusive with a person not meeting their preconceived notions of a normal person. They can cause the disabled to feel left out, abused, and/or excluded.

# People

**The Disabled** - They are mostly transgressed against based on their differences. Disabled usually have a hard time interacting or existing in an environment with other “normal” people based on a lack of understanding from others.

**Other People** - In the other category there are people who do not have an adequate knowledge of disabilities and are mostly ignorant to the facts. They most usually have negative reactions and prejudices against the disabled.

**People with a knowledge of Disabilities** - People with family members who are disabled or know of some friends who are disabled tend to be more understanding of the disabled. They usually pick up on whether someone is disabled and account for it by treating them in an understanding manner which accommodates their differences.

# Combating the Problem

Education is an essential part in getting people to express a **positive** reaction to disabled people. Through education, many preconceived notions and assumptions are quashed and the person is well informed rather than ignorant to the complexities of the disabled.

Society must know the several types of disability and their different attributes. After this the disabled have a better chance of being included in society.