

DISABILITY IN THE MEDIA

Lesson Plan: Films and Television

Objective: Students will be able to critique the impact of media on society's views of people with disabilities.

Materials: Disability in the Media Handout
Website pages

Vocabulary: Down Syndrome inclusion metaphor savant
downtrodden mainstreaming moron

New York State Learning Standards:

ELA Standard 3: Language for Critical Analysis and Evaluation

ELA Standard 4: Language for Social Interaction

SS Standard 1: History of the United States and New York

The Arts Standard 3: Responding to and Analyzing Works of Art

The Arts Standard 4: Understanding the Cultural Dimensions and Contributions of the Arts

Procedure:

1. The teacher should view the Disability in the Media section of the Media wing of the website to gain background information.
2. Selections from the website may be viewed by students online or copies of those pages may be printed for student use.
3. Read and discuss the first page of this section of the website to help students understand how impact of the media influences people's perceptions of disabilities.
4. Ask students what they know about the movies and television shows mentioned on the site. Ask their opinions of how these media presentations influences views of people with disabilities.
5. Pair students and give each pair a handout. (*Note: You may wish to assign the movies and television shows and modify the handout accordingly.*)
6. Ask students to complete their handout and discuss their findings and opinions.

Closure/Ticket out the door: Give an example of a time that you felt you made a decision based on something in the media.

Name _____



Disabilities in the Media

Use the internet and information you can gather from friends and family to find out about three of the following movies or television shows. Using the information you and your partner gather, decide what kind of an impact each has had on society's views of people with disabilities.

Rain Man

Life Goes On

Touched by an Angel

Of Mice and Men

Charly (Flowers for Algernon)

Up Syndrome

The Seventh Sign

The Ringer