

Avery Wochele

Artists Statement to Accompany (re)imaginings Entry

After reading "Disability Visibility" one thing became apparent to me. Almost all of the writers suffered from societal stereotypes. One of the many stereotypes that I have noticed is the mistaken idea that disabled people do not have the same emotions that able-bodied people do. In my Entry, I showed that disabled people are capable of emotions the same as any other person. My poster shows half of the person in a wheelchair, what people see on the outside. The other part shows what people do not see, what is on the inside, their feelings.

There are many ways in which people can do better, by acknowledging the feelings of the disabled. One way to do that is by putting yourself in that person's shoes. Thinking about how they feel can help people treat others better. The first part of Matthew 7:12, the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures, says "All things, therefore, that you want men to do to you, you also must do to them." This wise advice helps us to show compassion to people who are disabled and to everyone. It is also important to not confuse a physical disability with a mental disability. Just because someone is in a wheelchair does not mean that their mind is not working properly.

So, it is important to reject stereotypes. Also, we need to be able to put ourselves in their shoes. Finally, we need to make sure to not confuse a physical disability with a mental disability. If more people did this, then the world would be a much happier place.

Please Listen: A Poem

By: Leo Buscaglia

When I ask you to listen to me
and you start giving me advice,
You have not done what I asked.

When I ask you to listen to me
and you begin to tell me why
I shouldn't feel that way,
you are trampling on my feelings.

When I ask you to listen to me
and you feel you have to do something
to solve my problem,
you have failed me,
strange as that may seem.

Listen! All I ask is that you listen.
Don't talk or do - just hear me...

And I can do for myself; I am not helpless.
Maybe discouraged and faltering,
but not helpless.

When you do something for me that I can
and need to do for myself,
you contribute to my fear and
Inadequacy.

But when you accept as a simple fact
That I feel what I feel,
No matter how irrational,
Then I can stop trying to convince
You and get about this business
Of understanding what's behind
This irrational feeling.

And when that's clear, the answers are
obvious and I don't need advice.
Irrational feelings make sense when
we understand what's behind them.

So please listen, and just hear me.
And if you want to talk, wait a minute
for your turn- and I will listen to you.

