Famous People with Disabilities
Athletes, Artists, Celebrities, Musicians, and Writers / Journalists

Directions - Select a person from the list below as the topic of your writing assignment/presentation. Focus your research on the following questions:

- When did the person live? Are there important historic events that influenced this person’s life?
- What was this person’s career?
- Did the person’s disability impact his/her education? If so, how?
- What other ways did this person’s disability influence his/her life?

Athletes
Jim Abbott, Baseball – amputee
Arthur Ashe, Tennis - HIV / AIDS
Terry Bradshaw, Football – AD/HD
Jean Driscoll, Wheelchair Racing - mobility impairment
Jim Eisenreich, Baseball - Tourette’s Syndrome
Bruce Jenner, Decathlon – AD/HD
Jackie Joyner-Kersee, Track and Field – Asthma
Greg Louganis, Diving - Asthma, speech impairment, learning disability, HIV/AIDS
Casey Martin, Golf - mobility impairment
George Murray, Wheelchair Marathon - Asthma, mobility impairment
Terence Parkin, Swimming – Deaf
Dennis Rodman, Basketball – Asthma
Wilma Rudolph, Track and Field - Post Polio Syndrome
Marla Runyan, Track and Field - vision impairment
Jim Shea, Jr., Skelton (small sled) - learning disability
Jackie Stewart, Grand Prix Racing - learning disability
Kelly Sutton, NASCAR Racing - Multiple Sclerosis
Amy VanDyken, Swimming – Asthma
Artists
John Callahan, Cartoonist - mobility impairment
Dale Chihuly, Glass Maker - vision impairment
Leonardo Da Vinci, Painter / Sculptor - learning disability
Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Painter / Lithographer - person of short stature
Walt Disney, Cartoonist - learning disability
Francisco Goya, Painter / Printmaker – Deaf
Frida Kahlo, Painter – mobility impairment
Dorothea Lang, Photographer - mobility impairment
Auguste Renoir, Painter / Sculptor - Rheumatoid Arthritis
Auguste Rodin, Sculptor - learning disability
Georgia O’Keefe, Painter / Sculptor - vision impairment
Vincent Van Gogh, Painter - Bipolar Disorder, hearing impairment

Celebrities
Lucille Ball, Actress - mobility impairment
Sarah Bernhardt, Actress – Amputee
Hale Berry – hard of hearing
Chris Burke, Actor - developmental disability
Cher, Actress / Singer - learning disability
Tom Cruise, Actor - learning disability
Fannie Flagg, Actress / Author - learning disability
Michael J. Fox, Actor - mobility impairment
Danny Glover, Actor – Epilepsy
Whoopi Goldberg, Comedian / Actress - learning disability
Woody Harrelson, Actor - learning disability
John Hockenberry, TV Reporter - mobility impairment
James Earl Jones, Actor - speech impairment
Keira Knightly, Actress - learning disability
Jay Leno, Comedian - learning disability
Rush Limbaugh, Radio Talk Show Host - hard of hearing
Kristy MacNichol, Actress - Bipolar Disorder
Marlee Matlin, Actress - Deaf
Mary Tyler Moore, Actress - Diabetes
Jamie Oliver, TV Show Chef - learning disability
Richard Pryor, Comedian / Actor - mobility impairment
Heather Whitestone-McCullum, Miss America 1995 - Deaf
Henry Winkler, Actor and Producer - learning disability

**Musicians**
Rachel Barton, Violinist – Amputee
Ludwig von Beethoven, Composer - Asthma, hearing impairment
Leonard Bernstein, Composer – Asthma
Ray Charles, Singer / Songwriter – Blind
Alice Cooper, Singer / Songwriter - Asthma
Sammy Davis Jr., Singer / Songwriter - vision impairment
Jewel, Singer / Songwriter - learning disability
Ronnie Milsap, Singer / Songwriter - Blind
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Composer - Tourette Syndrome
Itzak Perlman, Violinist - mobility impairment
Brian Wilson, Singer / Songwriter - Bipolar Disorder, hearing impairment
Clay Walker, Singer / Songwriter - Multiple Sclerosis
Stevie Wonder, Singer / Songwriter - blind

**Writers / Journalists**
Hans Christian Anderson, Author - learning disability
Christy Brown, Author - mobility impairment
Neil Cavuto, Author / Financial Analyst / TV Show Host - Multiple Sclerosis
Agatha Christie, Author - learning disability
Charles Dickens, Author – Asthma
Charles Kruthammer, Syndicated Columnist - mobility impairment
James Thurber, Humorist / Cartoonist - vision impairment
Kurt Vonnegut, Author - mental health disability
H.G. Wells, Author - Epilepsy
Edith Wharton, Author - Asthma