

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-Kersey, 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