Famous People with Disabilities

Business Leaders, Explorers, Political Leaders, Scientists, and Social Activists

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?

Business Leaders

Richard Branson, Founder of Virgin Airlines and other Virgin companies - learning disability
John T. Chambers, CEO of Cisco Systems - learning disability
Barbara Corcoran, Founder of one of New York City's largest residential real estate agencies - learning disability
William Hewlett, Co-founder of Hewlett-Packard Company - learning disability
Ingvar Kamprad, Founder of the IKEA furniture chain - learning disability
David Neeleman, Founder and CEO of Jet Blue Airways - learning disability
Paul Orfalea, Founder of Kinko’s - learning disability
Charles Schwab, Founder and CEO of Charles Schwab brokerage firm - learning disability
Diane Swonk, Chief Economist and a Senior Vice President at Bank One Corporation - learning disability
Donald Winkler, CEO of Ford Motor Credit - learning disability
**Explorers**

Ann Bancroft, First woman to travel to the North Pole and lead an all-woman dog sled team to the South Pole - learning disability

John Wesley Powell, First non-Native American to explore the Grand Canyon – Amputee

**Political Leaders**

Julius Ceasar, Roman Emperor - Epilepsy

Winston Churchill, British Prime Minister - Bi-polar Disorder, learning disability

Claudius I, Roman Emperor - mobility impairment, speech impairment

Calvin Coolidge, U.S. President – Asthma

Robert Dole, U.S. Senator - mobility impairment

King George III, British Monarch - believed to have a metabolic disorder called Prophyria

Che Guevara, South American revolutionary leader - Asthma

Wilma Mankiller, First woman Chief of the Cherokee Nation - mobility impairment

George Patton, WWII General – learning disability

Peter the Great, Russian Czar – Asthma

Janet Reno, U.S. Attorney General – mobility impairment

Tom Ridge, First Director of U.S. Department of Homeland Security and governor of Pennsylvania

Franklin D. Roosevelt, U.S. President – mobility impairment

Theodore Roosevelt, U.S. President – Asthma

Martin Van Buren, U.S. President – Asthma

George Wallace, Alabama Governor – mobility impairment

Woodrow Wilson, U.S. President - Asthma, learning disability
**Scientist**

Alexander Graham Bell, Inventor of the telephone - learning disability
Thomas Edison, Scientist / Inventor – hard of hearing
Albert Einstein, Scientist - learning disability
Temple Grandin, Animal Behaiorist - Autism
Stephen Hawking, Theoretical Physicist / Author - mobility impairment
Kay Redfield Jamison, M.D., Professor of psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University - Bipolar Disorder

Richard Leakey, Paleoanthropologist, politician and conservationist – Amputee

Charles Proteus Steinmetz, Electrical Engineer famous for work in electricity - Kyphosis (spine impairment)

**Social Activists**

Judi Chamberlin, Co-founder of the Mental Patients Liberation Front and Author - mental health disability

Justin Dart, International business owner and helped draft the ADA – mobility impairment

Judy Heumann, Co-founder of the World Institute on Disability and U.S. Assistant Secretary of Special Education and Rehabilitation - mobility impairment

I. King Jordan, First Deaf President of Gallaudet University – Deaf
Helen Keller, Lecturer and Author - Deaf-Blind
Paul Longmore, Historian and Author on the subject of Disability Studies – mobility impairment

Joseph Pulitzer, Publisher and Philanthropist – Asthma
Ed Roberts, Independent Living Movement Leader and Co-founder of the World Institute on Disability – mobility impairment

Harriet Tubman, Abolitionist - brain injury / narcolepsy