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# *Famous People with Learning Disabilities: A WebQuest*

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## **Introduction**

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According to the US Census of 2000, 49.7 million Americans age five and over have been diagnosed with a disability. That's almost 20%! While being diagnosed with a disability can offer much needed supports in school and the workplace, it also carries with it a stigma. It has long been believed by society that people with disabilities are stupid, lazy, worthless, and will never succeed at anything. Unfortunately, that belief has spread to the people with disabilities themselves; because nobody else believes in them, they feel doomed to failure.

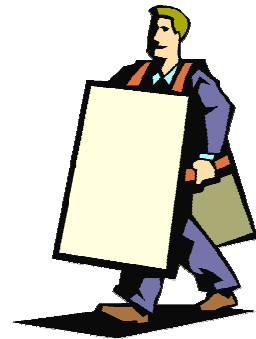
***THIS IS NOT TRUE, AND PEOPLE'S BELIEFS MUST CHANGE!***

## **The Task**

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You work for a big time marketing and presentation company. The United States Office of Education has approached you and four other companies and offered \$100,000 for the company who can design the best presentation about people with disabilities having success and how to make it happen.

***YOUR TASK IS TO CREATE THE BEST PRESENTATION!***



Remember, not only are you trying to win the contract with the Office of Education, you are trying to overcome these incorrect ideas about people with learning disabilities.

What presentation could you develop to beat out the other four groups that you are competing against? What information, research, and examples will you use? What visual and multimedia aides will you use? How will you make your company stand out above the others? How will you appeal to teachers and students alike?

## **The Process**

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1. Choose a partner that you can work well with, and create a name for your company.

2. Decide on a format for your presentation. It must have a written/visual part, and you must also physically give the presentation. A few ideas are:
  - a. Power Point presentation
  - b. Video
  - c. Posters and pictures
3. Begin researching famous people with disabilities. You will want to tell what their disability is and include pictures, quotes, ideas, and anything else you think might be helpful in getting the \$100,000 contract. Look for people with a variety of disabilities and from a variety of professions. Start with the following websites:  
<http://www.schwablearning.org/articles.aspx?r=258>  
<http://lucarinfo.com/inspire/index.html>  
<http://www.dyslexiacenter.org/ar/000045.shtml>
4. Research about the various types of disabilities. There are many types, and a lot of them are represented in our class and school. Find out their names, how they affect people and anything else you think would be cool or helpful. Try to coordinate the disabilities you choose with the famous people you already chose. Use these websites to help you begin:  
<http://www.ldonline.org/ldbasics>  
<http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/735/files/avw-02-types%20of%20disabilities.pdf>
5. Create a plan for students to overcome their disabilities. You must incorporate the information you found from the famous people and the disabilities, but may also want to talk to other students, teachers, and parents about different ideas. One word items are not acceptable! Give details! Don't forget to include examples (positive and negative). Be exciting and motivational! Here is another websites you may find helpful:  
[http://www.ldworldwide.org/ldinformation/individuals/individuals\\_default.html?gclid=CKHopenEol8CFQe1IgodBDDfFQ](http://www.ldworldwide.org/ldinformation/individuals/individuals_default.html?gclid=CKHopenEol8CFQe1IgodBDDfFQ)
6. Combine all of your information into your presentation format. Organize it however you feel best presents the information. Be exciting and original!
7. Practice presenting it! You can do it in to parents, friends, or in front of the mirrors (we will be able to tell if you haven't practiced!). You will be presenting it to the teacher and class, and your peers will vote on the best one. The presentation should be 6-10 minutes long, and both of you should talk. GOOD LUCK!

## Evaluation

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Please use the following rubric as a guide to plan your presentation. It is the same rubric that will be used to grade your project. There are a total of 18 points possible on the project. Your score will then be multiplied by a scale of 5.6 to receive your percentage. Also, the best presentation as voted by your peers will receive extra credit!

[http://www.uen.org/Rubric/rubric.cgi?rubric\\_id=16101](http://www.uen.org/Rubric/rubric.cgi?rubric_id=16101)

## Conclusion

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**CONGRATULATIONS!** You have finished your presentation on famous people with learning disabilities! You have worked hard, researched long, and found out tons of cool information. You have also had to work with someone else to accomplish your goal, which is an important skill in and of itself.

How did your presentation go? Did your peers like it? Were you happy with it? Would it have won the \$100,000 contract?

Most importantly, was your presentation something that could change society's incorrect ideas about people with disabilities? What did you learn that you could use in your personal life? Do you believe the things that you read and said? How can your life be different now?

