

Years ago, prior to ADA laws, I struggled as a student. I did not believe I was particularly much of a "daydreamer" or "unfocused" until I was told so by my teachers. I was told I was "stupid" and "lazy". But none of that made sense to me - I saw the world as an amazing web of interconnected ideas.

They wanted to take me on a direct journey from coast to coast, where there were no intersections to other parts of the country. They only made quick stops at rest-stops to be able to keep on schedule and rush to the other coast. But my mind knew about the intersections and wanted to touch, taste, smell, hear and see all of it in its glory. Where did all these other people come from? Where were they going? What were they doing?

How can anything new come from all those who think the same?

What is the cause of ADHD? I don't know.
Is there a cure? Should there be? I don't know.

What I do know, as a teacher of gifted students, their input is invaluable. They force the dynamics of thinking in a classroom, where all students benefit from their presence. Do they need support to live in our often overly stiff and structured society - Yes. Would it benefit us to toss them in a corner as we did years ago, so they would not "bother" others because they do not fit the "ideal student" image. No.

These students need their scaffolding (to function in a society they did not create) so that all can benefit from their extraordinary skills and talents as a human race.