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Writing Assignment 4

The two different families had completely different views on having deaf children. Chris and Mari, the hearing parents, were devastated to receive the news that their child was deaf. They were afraid that their kid would be different and not be able to experience what the world has for them. Meanwhile, the deaf parents, Peter and Nita, were happy to receive the news that their kids were deaf. Peter especially was happy to know that their kids are going to be just like him and in the same community. The hearing parents were skeptical about the implant but in the end were happy that their kid had the opportunity to get that aid. The deaf parents were confused why their kid wanted the hearing implant and how they’ve been fine without one.

Whether Heather gets the cochlear implant or not, she will still be Heather, but she stands to gain and lose some things if she were to get the implant. With the implant she could finally hear the kids she hangs out with and talk on the telephone, she would be able to hear alarms, cars crashing, and the people talking in Florida and New York. She will be able to do all the things that an average able hearing person would be able to do. She would fit in better with the masses. However, she would lose her identity as a deaf person, through the medical intervention she will no longer need to rely on sign language and live a life of a solely deaf person. Overall, she can communicate with most people she would come across but will no longer be completely deaf. In the situation where Heather does not get the cochlear implants, she will remain as a definite member of the deaf community, she would be just like her parents, she would find herself living through life just like how her parents did, and according to Peter, she would have a more peaceful life without all the noise.

From the argument between Peter and Marianna, it showed how much Peter did not want to get that implant for Heather. Just like a little before in the documentary, Nita was talking about how she was going to just disregard what people are telling her to do about her kid. I don’t blame them as that’s the only world they have known, but there are so many experiences that Heather will be missing out on when she grows up. The grandmother was arguing that she had seen all the things that Peter had to go through when he was growing up, all the things that he missed out on, and how much hardships he had to go through. As Peters life had progressed, she was saying how he didn’t remember how hard he had it. It made me frustrated that it seemed like the deaf parents were ignoring everything people were telling them, before being a member of the deaf community, Heather is just a kid that deserves the experiences that everyone else has. I’m glad that Heather has a grandmother who is so open minded and will actually accept her for who she is and not force her into a box where she obviously wants to explore what the world has for her.

If I had a deaf child, it almost would not be a question that I would get them cochlear implants, not because I reject deaf culture and her deaf identity but because I would want the best possible life for my kid, its just a fact that the world is tailored for people who can hear. Maybe I would try to meet with deaf people and find out their story. In the end it would be how the kid feels what they should do, I would start with the implant but if my kid didn’t want to use it, I wouldn’t stop them.