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Intro to Communication Disorders 100

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Communication Disorders Writing Assignment 1

In the past I have had experience with disability, be it my own or a loved one. When I was younger, I would often hurt myself, and sometimes break a bone. I would have to wear a cast for a few weeks. Just during that small amount of time, I learned how hard it was to live without the full functionality of my body. Luckily in my school I was not ostracized, and my classmates loved to sign casts. For my loved ones, I have also had experience with them having a disability, in the past my mom had had her ankle shattered by my dog Coco, twice. During that time, she needed surgery, this left her in a wheelchair for a time. Even though I was little I saw how hard it became for her to do basic tasks, and we had to take care of her full time as she recovered. Finally, in recent times, my aunt had a stroke, this left her partially paralyzed and unable to string together full sentences fluently. She has been in recovery for a year now and has gotten a great deal better, but I am not sure she will make a full recovery. She can walk with a cane and communicate, but still needs aid here and there. Watching her go from throwing parties all the time and being everywhere to being bedridden and unable to speak the same way she used to makes me heartbroken. Another person in my life with a disability is one of my best friends, he has been living with type one diabetes since middle school. Unless he told me, I had no one of knowing this. He lives a regular life, and the only difference is that he needs to spend an exorbitant amount of money on insulin to ensure that he can survive. This also helps me to see, however, behind everyone's abilities and disabilities is just another person.

After watching this film, I have seen that in the past, there were no regulations in place for the protection of handicapped people. It was the same story as Martin Luther King, where people got so much hatred and discrimination just because they were different. For factors out of people's control it is near sighted to treat them any worse than someone who was born without any major differences from the majority. I saw the struggles that the people had to fight for justice. I saw how there needed to be mass protests, for something that should just be common sense. When I was watching this documentary with my friend with diabetes, he said that he also had a 504 plan and it really showed me how important this is for people everywhere even where you do not see it. This documentary also showed me a small amount of what people with disabilities must go through each day. There are many things I have taken for granted that someone else needs to take exceptional care to do.

While watching this documentary, there were many things that stood out to me, but I can name the top 3. Firstly, how disabled people had to live prior to the disabled civil rights act. There are so many things we take for granted in our everyday life that non-disabled people would never even notice. One example I really took home was the sidewalks in the city, where there were no ramps for people in wheelchairs to get onto, so they had to go around the whole block just to get into a building they needed to go to. Another thing that stood out to me was the attitude the campers had to life, they didn't want to be babysat, and they wanted to be treated like anyone else. sure, they had things that other people didn't have to deal with, but they didn't let that take them down. And finally, the biggest thing that stood out to me was how disabled people were treated back then, they were treated like they weren’t even human. Willowbrook institution showed me things that were inhumane, it reminded me of the holocaust. No one ever deserved to be treated in such a way, especially children who did nothing wrong.

This documentary changed the way I will be approaching problems in the future. I am looking to become a computer engineer, and throughout my career, I will have to make each thing I make accessible to as many people as possible. There have been so many advancements in technology that I look forward to how much better of a world that we can make, for everyone in it.