

Think Everything's "Normal?" Then It's Time to Reconsider And Promote A New Narrative of Disability

Serres, Drew. "Think Everything's "Normal?" Then It's Time to Reconsider And Promote A New Narrative of Disability." Organizing Change. Organizing Change, n.d. Web. 24 Sept. 2016.

We are living in a culture of normalcy. A culture that author, Drew Serres, defines to be one that forces compulsion, exclusion, and the achievement of unrealistic expectations. The article provided me with a unique perspective on the culture of normalcy and why it is something that needs to be changed. There is no "normal" that every single person can fit into because human differences are so vast. The culture of normalcy isolates groups of people, the people who don't fit the "norm". Normally I hear about isolations based on gender or religion. However I don't often hear about the isolation of people with disabilities. This new perspective that was brought forth caused many other ideas to percolate around in my head.

I found the article **interesting** because it talked about a perspective on the culture of normalcy I had never considered. It focused on how the culture of normalcy isolates individuals with disabilities. Society often forces one to overcome their disability instead of making societal changes. They refer to someone with disabilities as a victim who is suffering, but this should not be the case. I believe that someone with a disability does not necessarily live a less fulfilling life than those without a disability. There are several Paralympic athletes and musicians like Stevie Wonder who are extremely successful and lead fulfilling lives despite their disabilities.

The article also talked about institutions that they believe perpetuate disabilities and normalcy. I was **surprised** to see the medical industry on this list. I never thought the medical industry perpetuates normalcy but the reasoning behind this remark made complete sense. As soon as the medical industry sees someone that thinks differently than the "normal" person, they automatically resort to fixing the problem through treatment.

After reading this list, it made me very **frustrated** to think about all of the institutions that treat those with disabilities unfairly. For example, upon realizing that a student has a disability, the education system will automatically put those students on a different track and expect them to achieve less. It also made me think about the many other groups of people that face inequalities, which frustrated me even more. We are all human and should treat each other with respect, and learn to celebrate our differences.

Overall, I believe that the author raised an interesting perspective on the culture of normalcy and how this isolates people with disabilities. If I could **talk to the author**, I would tell him that I completely agree with all of his proposed solutions to end a culture of normalcy. I strongly agree that we should bring awareness to people's choice of words and avoid using terms such as "psycho, retarded, and nuts." This was one of my major goals when I was on the health and wellness committee at my school. I would also ask

what he believes are the best methods to bring awareness of these issues to teenagers and university students.