

## Disability Awareness: Portrayals in Motion Pictures

Est. Time: 4 Hours

### Objective

Gain a better understanding of how people with disabilities have been portrayed in films.

### Overview

The media can be an effective tool for conveying information about individuals with disabilities. It can be just as effective for spreading harmful myths about those individuals. Teachers should be aware of how individuals with different disabilities are portrayed by the media so they can be prepared to deal with any negative stereotyping that may occur as a result.

### Activity

Select a movie that includes a central or supporting character with a disability and write a 1–2 page review. This should include a summary of the movie and answers to the questions below.

### Questions/Discussion Topics

1. Was the character with a disability portrayed in a positive or negative light? In what ways?
2. Was the depiction of the disability accurate? Explain.
3. Do you believe that people will have a better understanding of the disability portrayed after watching this film? Justify your response.