



## Disability Awareness: Portrayals in Motion Pictures

Est. Time: 4 Hours

### Objective

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

### Overview

This activity is a way to consider how people with disabilities are viewed in society. The media can be an effective tool for providing information on disabilities or it can provide harmful myths about disabilities. Teachers should be aware of how different disabilities are portrayed by the media so they can be prepared to deal with any negative stereotyping that may occur as a result of these portrayals.

### Activity

Select a movie that pertains to a disability and then write a 1–2 page review. This should include a summary of the movie and answers to the questions below.

### Questions/Discussion Topics

1. Were the people with disabilities portrayed in a positive or negative light? In what ways?
2. Was the depiction of the disability accurate? Why or why not?
3. Do you believe that people, having watched this film, will come away with a better understanding of the disability in question? Why or why not?



The contents of this case study were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #H325F060003. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer, Shedeh Hajghasemali.