

2015 Spread the Word to End the Word Essay Contest

Student Information

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- Essay Theme: There are No disabilities, just different abilities!
- Age: 13
- Grade: 7th

Parent/Guardian Information

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There are No disabilities, just different abilities

Have you ever thought about how bad it would hurt to put your hand in a pot of boiling water? If you did that, you would feel the pain not just in your hand but it would probably go through your entire body. When we make fun of disabled people they are very sensitive, they probably feel the same pain inside. The biggest difference between these two is that the hand will most likely heal a lot faster than the spirit that was broken when someone called them a name.

Some might try to label people with Down syndrome or different disabilities, but the way I look at it, there are NO disabilities in life, just differences in our abilities. God made us all unique with our own set of gifts and talents and if we take the time to look for the good inside people instead of judging them from their appearances we will probably find that we have a lot in common. In fact we all probably have something about our appearances we would like to change if we could. So we color our hair, we put on makeup, we buy new clothes. . . but for someone with a disability they can't hide the fact that they're different than most. So instead of making fun of those people, lets embrace them. If you haven't ever made friends or hang out with anyone with down syndrome/disabilities you are really missing out. I encourage you to branch out and meet someone with some kind of disability, they are sooo much fun! No matter what, they always seem to smile and be really happy and there happiness even seems to rub off on you when you are around them.

Aaron, my neighbor is different than most of us, he has down syndrome. Down syndrome causes your brain to work slower at some things, but faster than the average on other things. Aaron is a great guy, who loves to hang out with his nephew, play basketball, hang out with his friends, and work at Texas Roadhouse. Aaron also has a great sense of humor; but when you're walking down the street and see a young man that looks different than you, you whisper to your friend " look at that retarded doof." Is that any way to treat another one of Gods creations? People don't try to see what Aaron is, or even what Aaron could be, they just look at his disabilities, not Aarons' abilities. Can you imagine living in a world where everyone is the same? How boring would that be? I strive to live original every single day! Living original to me is standing out and being different in your own and special ways. Do you think Aaron chose to have down syndrome, do you think he wants people staring and pointing at him? The answer to that question is No, Aaron wants to be treated equal just as everyone else does. Aaron would never try to hurt ANYONE. I wish people could understand that not everyone is the same, and that's okay.

Let's put a stop to the R- Word, one person and one word at a time. Using the word retarded not only hurts others feelings, but my feelings too. Calling someone a name you know will hurt them is mean, and shouldn't be done. Ending the R-Word should stop, and stop NOW.

So whenever you say or hear the R-Word used. Don't let it slide acknowledge it and encourage others not to say the R-Word either. Everyone deserves respect. One day if you happen to stumble upon Aaron, say hello, he is a great person and a good friend.