

Hardware:

Wireless keyboard
 Computer (wireless keyboard files to computer)
 Printer
 E-books
 Digital cameras

Software:

Internet (for research)
 Word
 PowerPoint

Overview: This lesson is designed to increase students’ understanding of the lives of people with disabilities. Through the various activities of this lesson, students will develop an awareness of the problems with which handicapped people must contend.

Step by Step:

- Possible ideas for discussion:
 - Talk about the different types of disabilities with which people must cope.
 - Have you ever known someone with a disability?
 - Have you ever talked with that person about their disability?
 - Have you ever seen someone treated harshly because they had a disability or were different in some way? How do you think that made them feel?
 - What do the initials ADA stand for? What does it mean?
- Interview someone with a disability. (It could be a family member, friend of the family, neighbor, etc.) Have them answer questions such as these:
 - Name, age, relationship to you, number of years with handicap?
 - What is the most frustrating about having your disability/ies?
 - What would you change (if you could) to make your life easier?
- Demonstrate an e-book to the interviewee (or another person) and find out whether this technology could aid that person in some way. Would the person consider using e-books in the future (regardless of whether or not it helps with their disability)?
- Using the Internet and/or materials in the library, students will research “disabilities” and the ADA.
- Students will write a paragraph about something new that they’ve learned regarding disabilities using the wireless keyboards. Download it to the computer in Microsoft Word. Print copies.
- Students will divide into groups of three and share their new knowledge.

Additional Activities:

- Discuss:
 - Where can you see evidence in our daily lives of the impact of the ADA?
 - How do you feel about these accommodations?
- Using a digital camera, photograph examples of ADA accessibility.
 - Create a PowerPoint presentation using the data and photos gathered .
 - Create a collage on posterboard using the photographs.
- Divide into three groups. Each group will choose a celebrity or historical figure who has a disability (Christopher Reeve, Stevie Wonder, Michael J. Fox, Franklin D. Roosevelt, etc.). Each student will read a book or article about that person.

Ideas for discussion:

- What have you learned about that person's life that you didn't know before?
- What did you find out that is especially interesting?
- How is (did) this person coping (cope) with their disability?
- Did this person's handicap interfere with their career? In what way? How did they respond?
- Would this person's behavior make them a good role model for children?
- What do you admire or dislike about this person?

Review:

- Has this program changed your ideas or feelings about people with disabilities?
- Would you ever consider becoming an activist for people with disabilities or for other groups of people with needs?