

Activity	Disability at First Glance
Learning Intention	Students will consider their first impressions of “disability.”
Materials Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper or index cards • Disability at First Glance Discussion Questions handout

Activity Structure

Begin this activity by writing the word “disability” on the board. Hand out index cards or writing paper. Ask students to write their names on their cards/papers and then work independently for 2-3 minutes to write down what they think of when they think about the word “disability.” If students need more guidance, share prompts, such as:

- What is your definition of the word disability?
- Make a list of words that come to mind when you think of disability.
- List places and/or people you think of when you hear or see the word disability.

When time is up, break students into groups of 3-4. Give group a copy of the Disability at First Glance Discussion Questions handout.

Allow students 7-8 minutes to discuss the questions in their groups.

Then, bring the class back together and have each group share 1-2 “a-ha” moment(s) from their discussion aloud.

Assessment

- Opening exercise index cards/papers.
- Participation in the group activity and class share.

Extensions

- Following the discussion, give each student another index card (preferably a different color) or ask them to flip their papers over to write on the other side. Instruct students to write down what they now think about when they consider the word “disability.” In 2-4 sentences, ask them to reflect on this question: “Did your thoughts change after your group discussion? Why or why not?”

