

# Glossary

## Grades 9-12

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**Accessible:** Capable of being reached without difficulty.

**Advocacy:** Active support of an idea or cause, especially the act of pleading or arguing for something.

**Advocate:** A person who supports a particular cause or group. There are many types of advocates which include disability advocates, youth advocates, health advocates, animal advocates, etc.

**Almshouse:** An almshouse (also known as a poorhouse) was a house for people who could not take care of themselves. (i.e. people who were elderly, poor, had disabilities, etc.)

**Amendment:** Changing for the better or an improvement to something that already exists.

**Apgar Test:** A system of evaluating a newborn's physical condition by assessing a value (0, 1, or 2) to each of 5 criteria: heart rate, respiratory effort, muscle tone, response to stimuli, and skin color.

**Architectural:** The art and science of designing and constructing buildings.

**Architectural Barriers:** Any structure or design feature that makes a building inaccessible to a person with a disability.

**Asylum:** An asylum was an institution for orphans, people with mental illness and disabilities or for people who needed assistance.

**Autism:** Autism is a developmental disability.

**Autistic Savant:** A term once used to describe someone with Autism who exhibited genius in a highly specialized area such as mathematics.

**Birth Defects:** A birth defect is a physical or mental deficit that occurs at when a baby is born.

**Caucasians:** Caucasian is a term used when a person is considered "white" based on their skin color.

**Celebrity Endorsement:** When a celebrity such as an actor, sports figure or musician promotes and supports a certain product, organization, or cause.

**Cerebral Palsy:** Cerebral Palsy (or CP) is a developmental disability. CP is caused by damage to the brain before or shortly after a baby is born. An individual with Cerebral Palsy may have difficulty with coordination and walking, moving their muscles and with speaking.

**Chromosome:** Chromosomes are clusters of genes that determine a person's hereditary characteristics, such as eye and hair color. Children inherit genes from both of their parents.

**Clone:** Any organism whose genetic information is identical to that of a "mother organism" from which it was created.

**Constitutional:** Established by or working under a set of laws or constitution.

**Cripples:** Cripples was a term used to describe people with disabilities who could not perform tasks in the same manner as a person without a disability.

**Custodial:** Services and care of a non-medical nature provided on a long-term basis. Kinds of custodial care include board, personal assistance and room.

**Deaf Mute:** Deaf Mute was a term used to describe a person who was unable to hear and speak.

**Deinstitutionalization:** Deinstitutionalization is the process of closing all institutions that house people with disabilities. Deinstitutionalization is a result of the maltreatment and lack of care provided to the people residing in the institutions.

**Deterioration:** Deterioration is when something gets worse over time.

**Developmental Disability:** A mental or physical disability that is present before the age of 22 and interferes with normal, physical, intellectual or emotional development and usually lasts throughout life.

**Developmental Disorders:** A form of an intellectual disability that develops in some children after they have progressed normally for the first 3 or 4 years of life. Onset of the mental deterioration usually begins with a vague viral infection or other similar disease symptoms.

**Developmentally Disabled:** Developmentally disabled is a term used to describe a person who does not develop according to normal standards either mentally or physically before the age of 22.

**Disability Insurance:** Disability insurance is money that is paid to individuals who are unable to work because of an injury or illness.

**Discrimination:** Unfair treatment of a person, racial group, or minority.

**Down syndrome:** A disorder caused by the presence of an extra 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome. People with Down syndrome have mild to moderate intellectual disabilities, are short in stature, and have flattened facial features.

**Downtrodden:** Downtrodden is when someone is abused or oppressed by people in power.

**Epileptic:** Epileptic refers to someone who has Epilepsy. Epilepsy is a disorder of the central nervous system where a person may have recurring attacks of their sensory motors.

**Eugenics:** The study or belief of improving the human race through selective genetics.

**Euthanasia:** Euthanasia is the act of putting a person or animal to death without pain.

**Evolution:** Evolution is the process of gradual change or development.

**Exceptional Children:** Children who are unique and uncommon.

**Exclusion:** Exclusion is the act of separating or keeping away.

**Feeble-Minded:** Feeble-Minded was an early medical term to describe people with intellectual disabilities.

**Folic Acid:** A vitamin that is needed for the formation of red blood cells and to help babies develop properly before they are born.

**Freak Show:** Sideshow or circus act that used people with physical disabilities as a form of entertainment.

**Freaks:** A term that was once used to describe a person who had a significant difference in appearance or physical disability.

**Genetic:** Related to chromosomes, which are the basic building blocks. Genes are the building blocks of chromosomes.

**Glaucoma:** A disease of the eye in which pressure within the eyeball damages the optic disc, impairing vision and sometimes leads to blindness.

**Group Homes:** A residence in the community where several individuals with disabilities live with supportive staff.

**Handicapped:** Handicapped is a term formerly used to describe physical or mental disabilities.  
*\*A more acceptable term is a person with a disability.\**

**Hate Crimes:** A crime occurring out of prejudice toward a person's gender, race, religious beliefs, or social group.

**Heredity:** Heredity means genes being passed from a parent to their offspring. These genes include such characteristics as hair and eye color.

**HIV:** An infectious virus that causes AIDS.

**Idiot:** Idiot was a term used to describe a person who did not have any professional knowledge. The term later evolved to include anyone with a disability.

**Imbeciles:** An early medical term to describe people with mental disabilities.

**Immunization:** Immunization means becoming immune or resistant to diseases.

**Inclusion:** Inclusion means treating individuals with disabilities equally and allowing those individuals the same opportunities available to everyone else. Inclusion also means educating all students together in one classroom, regardless of disability.

**Infant Mortality:** The death rate during the first year of a baby's life.

**Infanticide:** The act of killing newborn babies.

**Insane:** Insane was a term used to describe a person with a mental disability.

**Institutionalize:** To place a person in the care of an institution.

**Integrated:** To open to all people, including those with a disability, all races, and all ethnic groups without restriction.

**Intellectual Disability:** An intellectual disability is a disability that affects a person's intelligence or ability to learn.

**Intelligence Tests (IQ):** Any number of tests used to measure a person's mental skills.

**Interdisciplinary:** Participating in two or more areas of study.

**Jesters:** A professional clown that was used for the entertainment of kings and royal courts. In medieval times, some people with disabilities were used as jesters.

**Legislation:** The act or process of making laws.

**Litigation:** The process of engaging in legal proceedings.

**Lunatic:** A term used to describe a person with insanity. Also see: Insane

**Mainstream Society:** The way most of the population thinks, acts, works, and lives.

**Mainstreaming:** Mainstreaming is when students with disabilities attend public schools instead of special schools.

**Mandated:** A command that is assigned by law.

**Mass Transit:** All transport systems in which the passengers do not travel in their own vehicles. Types of mass transit include busses and subways.

**Media Blitz:** The widespread and rapid printing, writing, editing, photographing, or broadcasting of news on a specific topic.

**Mental Disability:** An incomplete development of mental capabilities.

**Mental Retardation:** Below-average intellectual ability resulting from a genetic defect, brain injury, or disease and usually present from birth or early infancy.

**Metaphor:** A figure of speech in which a word or phrase that usually describes one thing is used to describe another in order to make a comparison, for example, "All the world's a stage."

**Mongoloids:** An early medical term for people with Down syndrome.

**Moron:** Moron is a term that was historically used to define an individual with some form of mild intellectual disability. After the 1970s, mild mental retardation became the more acceptable terminology.

**Muscular Dystrophy:** Muscular Dystrophy, also known as MD, is a genetic (inherited) disorder that causes the muscles in the body to become very weak over time.

**Nativism:** Nativism means protecting the people living in a certain location from outsiders who may be trying to come into that specific location.

**Natural Selection:** The process of adapting certain traits to survive in the surrounding environment. Natural Selection is sometimes called "Survival of the Fittest".

**Normalization:** The policy of offering people with disabilities patterns, conditions, and experiences of everyday life as close as possible to those of people without disabilities by not separating them physically, socially, and administratively from the rest of society.

**Paralympics Games:** The Paralympics Games are a multi-sport event for athletes with physical disabilities including mobility disabilities, amputees, visual disabilities and those with Cerebral Palsy.

**Pauperism:** The quality or state of being very poor or not being able to care for oneself.

**Perception:** Understanding something by becoming aware through any of the senses especially sight or hearing.

**Persecution:** The act of harassing or mistreating based on the beliefs of another person.

**Physical Disability:** A disability that affects the manner in which a person is able to move.

**Polio:** Abbreviation of Poliomyelitis (see Poliomyelitis)

**Poliomyelitis:** Often called polio or infantile paralysis, Poliomyelitis is an infectious viral disease that causes deterioration of the muscles.

**Polling Stations:** The place where voters cast their ballots in elections.

**Pre-Natal:** Prenatal is a term used to describe events before or previous to birth.

**Promiscuous:** A man or woman who does not limit their sexual relations in accordance with what is socially acceptable.

**Racism:** Abusive or discriminative behavior towards members of another race.

**Reformatories:** A place where either just boys or just girls are sent to be re-educated and reformed through a combination of strict discipline and schooling.

**Rehabilitation:** When a person has returned back to good conditions.

**Reintegrate:** Reintegrate means to restore or put back.

**Restrictive:** Keeping within certain limits or bounds.

**Rubella:** Rubella is a disease that caused infants to have birth defects from mothers who were infected. Rubella is also known as German measles.

**Savant:** A savant is an individual with a developmental disability who has remarkable talent for solving problems and puzzles and with memory.

**Segregated:** Separation according to race, ethnic group or disability.

**Seizures:** Seizures are spasms or convulsions as a result of a disorder of the central nervous system.

**Selective Breeding:** The process of reproducing plants, animals, or humans according to specific genetic traits.

**Slow Learner:** A person that takes a longer time to understand certain concepts.

**Social Security:** Refers to social welfare service concerned with social protection, or protection against socially recognized conditions including poverty, old age, disability, and unemployment.

**Special Olympics:** An international organization created to help people with intellectual disabilities develop self-confidence, social skills and a sense of personal accomplishment through sports training, and competition. The Special Olympics was founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in 1962.

**Sterilization:** The process of destroying the ability of people to reproduce.

**Straitjackets:** A restrictive garment used to prevent movement of the arms.

**Subsidize:** To purchase with the assistance of payment by a public enterprise. For example, people who live in subsidized housing purchase the home with the aid of government funding.

**Subsistence:** The way in which someone maintains life.

**Supernatural:** Of or relating to existence outside the natural world.

**Telecommunication:** The electronic systems used to send messages by telegraphy, cable, telephone, radio, or television.

**Vaccine:** A method of preventing disease by building immunity, usually by administering a weakened form of the virus.

**Vasectomy:** In males, surgical removal of the vas deferens resulting in sterility or the inability to reproduce.

**Vocational Rehabilitation:** Vocational Rehabilitation is specific training in a trade with the intention of employment.

**Willowbrook:** A school for children with intellectual disabilities in Staten Island, NY. Willowbrook was open from 1942-1987.

**Zoning:** Dividing an area for a specific purpose as a section of a city used only for a certain type of building or activity.

Definitions from: **The Free Dictionary** <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/>