Understanding Disabilities Research Project

Teacher Notes

In this lesson from Teaching Tolerance, students work in small groups to research various disabilities, jigsaw to teach others about the disability, and explore ways to communicate sensitively with people who have disabilities.

The disabilities featured in this lesson include attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism, intellectual disability, blindness, deafness, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, dyslexia, and muscular dystrophy. Others could be added or substituted to fit individual needs.

This research activity would fit well in a literature study that highlights disability, such as the play *The Miracle Worker* by Gibson, the novel *Wonder* by Palacio, or the novella *Of Mice and Men* by Steinbeck.

For the complete lesson plan and handouts, visit

<http://www.tolerance.org/supplement/understanding-disabilities-middle-grades>.