

Think Everything's "Normal?" Then It's Time To Reconsider And Promote A New Narrative Disability

Series, D. Think Everything's "Normal?" Then It's Time To Reconsider And Promote A New Narrative Of Disability.

This article focuses on the "culture of normalcy" and how as a society we assume that having a disability means living less of a life and wishing to be normal. The argument that surprised me most was the one against medical institutions in which the author argues that doctors and hospitals perpetuate the stigma of disabled people needing to be "fixed." I can see where this point is coming from, as individuals with disabilities could spend much of their lives seeing medical professionals for treatments in order to help live "normally". However I do not necessarily agree that this is being done in order to impose the culture of normalcy on these patients. I would argue that doctors will go out of their way to do what they can to ensure that their patient can go about their lives comfortably, and are not diagnosing and prescribing treatments because of any stigma. It is after all, their job to help their patients become more healthy. It does frustrate me that people with disabilities are only portrayed in a certain in the media. I could think of many examples from my own experience while reading this passage, and was unable to recall a time when a disabled person was a character that wasn't used to drive the plot forward because of their condition. The media does have a strong influence on the way we perceive the world around us, and a character with a disability should have to overcome it in a sense to be part of a narrative. Overall I feel that this article was very informative, and it helped to shape my perspective in terms of what I perceive "normal" to be. As much as I did agree with the author's points, I couldn't help but feel that this article was written in a very aggressive sort of manner. As I was reading, I felt that I was being accused of perpetuating people with

disabilities myself. And while this may be true in a sense, as I'm sure I had fallen victim to the culture of normalcy in some sense up until this point I believe that the article would have been more effective if I did not make the reader feel guilty. I can understand that the author is passionate about this topic and I support that they wrote with emotion, I cannot help but feel that they went a little overboard in a sense. However the article was effective nonetheless.