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4-6-13

HW#1

1. Interesting Points related to Diversity or Social Justice

- a. Scotch writes “Perhaps the oldest American disability self-advocacy organization is the National Association of the Deaf (NAD)... NAD came to represent the community of people who were culturally Deaf and focused in particular on the education of deaf children.” (Scotch, 2009, pp.17) Although I have a history with studying deaf culture this is something I never knew. This was a huge moment in Deaf history and opened a multitude of new opportunities for members of the deaf community. I think it provides an excellent insight as to how deaf community members view their culture and their ability. I feel it really shows how dedicated they are to preserving their culture as nothing less than their own unique way of living.
- b. Baynton discusses women’s rights and disability in his article stating that “suffragists rarely challenged the notion that disability justified political inequality and instead disputed the claim that women suffered from these disabilities. Their arguments took three forms: one, women were not disabled and therefore deserved the vote; two, women were being erroneously and slanderously classed with disabled people, with those who were legitimately denied suffrage; and three, women were not naturally or inherently disabled but were made disabled by inequality...” (Baynton, 2010, pp. 97) Although this passage explains the three points as advocating for women’s rights, they also helped me to understand the history and issues regarding it. I never thought of women’s rights as being compared to other disabilities. This was an interesting concept

that caught my attention and is a perspective I never heard before. Reading through this passage my mind was opened to seeing women's rights issues in a new way and I feel like I now can better advocate for them and acknowledge more of women's history.

2. Relationship to "Sound and Fury"

- a. In Scotch's "Nothing about us without us" there was mention of the student lead protest for a 'deaf president now' at Gallaudet University which directly relates to the film "Sound and Fury." In the movie one family was advocating for deaf culture saying that it was just as important to them as hearing culture is to hearing people. Both in the movie and this article also mentions deaf individuals were fighting for their culture and their right to be treated equally.
- b. This entire article relates in multiple ways to the video "sound and fury." It discusses many controversial disabilities such as variances in gender, race, and hearing or sight ability. It advocates for and discussed these issues while also bringing light to different points of view and I think the video did that as well (but more focused strictly on the deaf community). In "Sound and Fury" the families provided an excellent variety of viewpoints on the issue of the cochlear implant, it also gave good explanations as to the issues surrounding deaf culture and hearing culture.

3. Questions:

- a. Scotch uses the term 'impairments' quite often. This isn't a term I would use to describe those who are deaf or blind and it makes me wonder how many people consider these to be impairments and disabilities compared to a new perspective on living. My question is: do you think being deaf and blind should be considered a disability, why or why not?

- b. Scotch discusses the origin of the term 'disability' as having multiple perspectives and being formed by specific political circumstances. This made me wonder how much variety is there in this definition and how we are able to constantly work around it. My question is: what is your definition of disability?
- c. Baynton mentions a variety of things that are, or have been, considered a disability; for example, on page 97, it states "ethnicity also has been defined by disability." This makes me wonder how broad the term disability really is. What is your definition of the term disability?
- d. Baynton discusses the disability of women in the 19th and 20th century; he states "women were said to be less evolved than white men." (Baynton, 2010, pp. 96) I am curious as to how this idea originated and when being a woman first became a disability. My question is: How did being a woman become a disability?

References:

- Baynton, D.C. (2010). Disability and the justification of inequality in American history. In P.S. Rothenberg (Ed.), *Race, class, and gender, in the United States* (pp. 92-102). New York: Worth Publishers
- Scotch, R. K. (2009). "Nothing About Us Without Us": Disability Rights in America. *OAH Magazine Of History*, 23(3), 17.