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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute
2006 Volume III: Postwar America: 1945-1963

The Path to Opportunity: A Study of Disability Rights in Postwar America

Guide for Curriculum Unit 06.03.07
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This curriculum unit explores the development of the Disability Rights Movement in postwar America. This unit aids students in understanding the political, legal and social activism that fueled this movement and allows students to examine the many stages and major events encountered by participants fighting for the rights of people with disabilities. It provides a short history of how society has treated individuals with disabilities. However, the focus of the curriculum deals with the milestones beginning with the influx of disabled veterans coming home from World War II to the passage of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990.

This curriculum unit was developed for blind and visually impaired students in grades 9-12. However, it is a topic that will be useful for students with any disability as well as non-disabled students who wish to gain insight into the problems faced by students with disabilities.

(Developed for “Life Skill for Blind and Partially Sighted” Special Education, grades 9-12; recommended for “Life Skill for Blind and Partially Sighted” Special Education, grades 9-12)

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