

Disabilities in America

Lower level, Liberal, 4 credits

Disabilities in America is considered to be lower level knowledge that is liberal. It represents foundational skills and concepts that an entry level human service worker has acquired. Disabilities in America is more often about why we do things (i.e., liberal) and not necessarily how we do things (i.e., non-liberal). At Empire State College and community colleges, the course in Disabilities in America is offered at the lower level.

The questions below can only be utilized for Disabilities in America at the lower level, not advanced level. There is a PLA guide for Human Service Practice with Disabilities also at the lower level. Please discuss with your mentor which might best fit your experience.

Please use the questions below to structure your PLA submission on the topic of Disabilities in America. Copy each question and respond directly below it. If you utilize an outside source, such as a website or a book, make sure to reference this in your response. The responses to the questions should be submitted in a Word document and uploaded in PLA Planner. In PLA Planner, you would list the topic as Disabilities in America, asking for 4 credits, and designate this as Lower Level and Liberal.

Please note – responding to these questions is not a guarantee of credit. You will still be expected to speak with an evaluator and answer any supplemental questions that they may have. The evaluator would then make a credit determination.

Questions for Students to respond to

We suggest you save this document with your name and the title of the PLA (e.g., Smith Disabilities in America PLA) and answer beneath each question below.

Name:

ID:

PLA Title: Disabilities in America

Number of Credits Requested: 4

Type: Lower level, Liberal

1. Briefly describe your experiences with individuals with a disability.

2. Please list any trainings, workshops, or readings that you have done on this topic.

It is expected that you will use references to support your answers to each of the questions. Please make sure to cite appropriately within your responses.

3. How do you define disability?

4. Disabilities may be evident, obvious, and visible. Other disabilities, such as various types of learning disabilities, may not be visible, but may affect how one thinks and learns. Discuss two types of visible disabilities and two types of invisible disabilities.

5. Describe the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

- When was it created?
- What is included in the ADA?
- What is the definition of disability in the ADA?
- What type of services are covered in the ADA?

6. There are a number of stereotypes, myths, and stigmas associated with having a disability. Please explain and describe some of these stereotypes, myths, and stigmas and how, if confronted, you would respond to them.

7. Discuss the ways that cultural differences might impact a person with a disability. Give examples if relevant.