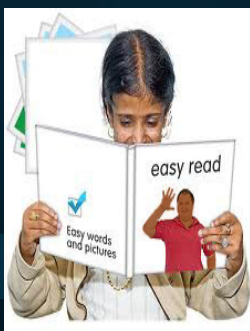




**REPORT ON THE LEVEL OF STIGMATIZATION,
DISCRIMINATION AND EXCLUSION OF PERSONS
WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR
FAMILIES IN GHANA**



Easy Read Version

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Contributors




Acknowledgement is due to Auberon Jeleel Odoom, the Project Manager - Inclusion Ghana for offering his support, leadership and guidance. Without his dedication, support, and expertise this Easy Read Report would not have been possible.

Inclusion Ghana is especially indebted to Tan Xiangyun, Assistant Manager – Risk & Compliance department of First State Investments, Singapore, and Laurie Y. Hung, a Research Assistant at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College for their efforts in all aspects of the development of the Easy Read Version of the Report. Arnaud Rouillot’s graphic design help and branding of the easy read is invaluable. We would like to offer thanks to him. We also thank UN Volunteers for their support in facilitating contact between Inclusion Ghana and the volunteers to help in the development of this easy read.






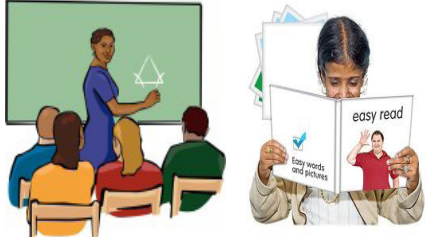
We would like to register our recognition of the board of directors of Inclusion Ghana and Landsforeningen LEV for their feedback and enthusiastic support. Many Thanks.

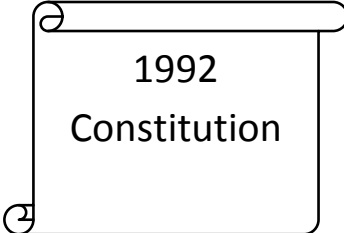

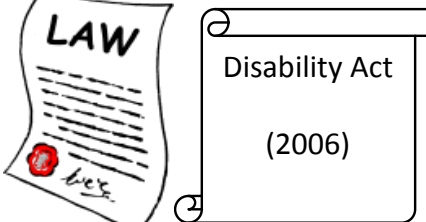
Compiled, Edited & Designed by:

Auberon Jeleel Odoom
Tan Xiangyun
Laurie Y. Hung
Arnaud Rouillot



	<p>This document is an Easy Read version of the full report. You need to look at the full report if you want to know what exactly the report says.</p>
	<p>You can find the full report on the Inclusion Ghana website at: http://www.inclusion-ghana.org/reports.php</p>
	<p>A list of difficult words in this report is explained on page 4.</p>

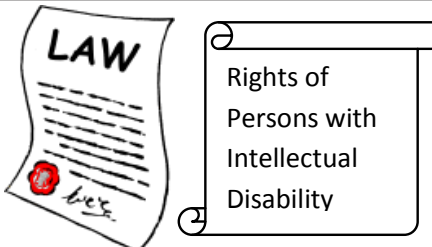





WORD LIST


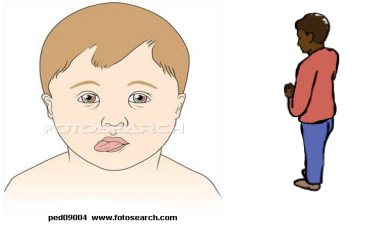

<p>Intellectual Disability is when a person has difficulty learning and socialising.</p>	
<p>Stigma is when someone is considered less of a person by other people.</p>	
<p>Discrimination is when someone is treated unfairly by other people.</p>	
<p>Exclusion is when someone is rejected by other people in his community or society.</p>	
<p>Special schools are schools where only children with intellectual disabilities attend.</p>	
<p>Integrated schools are regular schools for non-disabled children with special units for children with intellectual disabilities.</p>	

<p>The 1992 Constitution protects persons with disabilities against unfair treatment and says persons with disabilities have the right to enjoy FCUBE too.</p>	 <p>1992 Constitution</p>
<p>FCUBE stands for free, compulsory, universal basic education. It means that all children in Ghana are able to go to school. All children do not pay for 12 years of education.</p>	 <p>FCUBE</p>
<p>The Persons with Disability Act (2006) gives persons with disabilities the right to go to school, to get a job, to be fairly treated in society, and have free medical care.</p>	 <p>LAW</p> <p>Disability Act (2006)</p>

(A) WHO IS INCLUSION GHANA?

<p>a. We are a member of Inclusion International</p>	
<p>b. We are formed in Ghana in 2009</p>	
<p>c. We want to reduce unfair treatment against persons with intellectual disability</p>	
<p>d. This is what we do:</p>	
<p>i. Educate people about intellectual disability</p>	
<p>ii. Train people to provide good care services to persons with intellectual disability and their families</p>	
<p>iii. Research how to help persons with intellectual disability</p>	

<p>iv. Promote the rights of persons with intellectual disability</p>	
<p>e. We aim to help all persons with intellectual disability and their families fully participate in society</p>	
<p>(B) WHAT IS INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY?</p>	
<p>Intellectual Disability is when a person has difficulty learning and socialising.</p>	
<p>Persons with Intellectual Disability may:</p>	
<p>a. Find it difficult to talk to other people,</p>	
<p>b. Learn more slowly,</p>	
<p>c. Take a longer time to fit into society,</p>	<p>I'm not ready</p> 

<p>d. May need help to take care of themselves</p>	
<p>Different people have different levels of disability</p>	
<p>The level of disability must be properly assessed so that people can be effectively helped.</p>	

**(C) WHAT CAUSES INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY?
(and What does **NOT** cause Intellectual Disability?)**

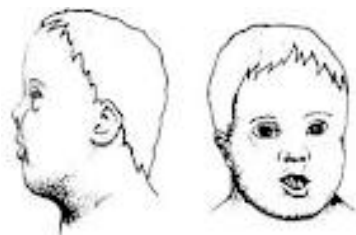
<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p>
<p>What causes intellectual disability?</p>	<p>What does NOT cause intellectual disability?</p>
<p>- Head injuries,</p>	<p>- Curse,</p>
<p>- Diseases,</p>	<p>- Witchcraft (juju),</p>
<p>- Genetic conditions,</p>	<p>- Punishment</p>
<p>- Birth defects,</p>	
<p>- Strokes,</p>	
<p>- Drinking alcohol while pregnant</p>	

(D) THE COMMON TYPES OF INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

What is Down Syndrome?

People with Down Syndrome will look different from other people.

- They may have smaller ears, mouth and nose
- They may have a larger tongue
- They may have shorter necks



- They may have smaller hands with short fingers



How does it affect children?

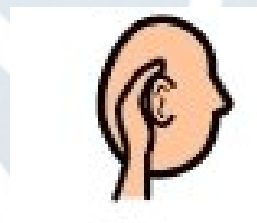
- Children with down syndrome learn more slowly than others their age





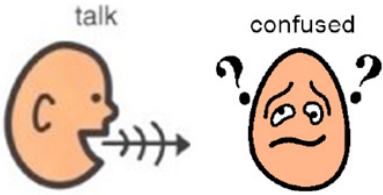









- They may have heart problems









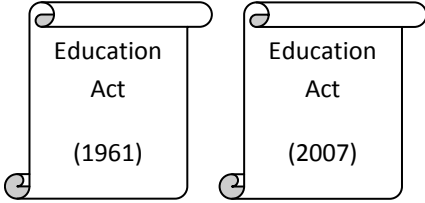

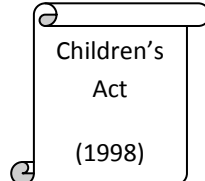

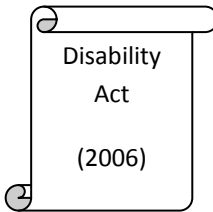

- They may have problems with hearing



<p>- They may have problems with eyesight</p>	
<p>- They may have other health problems</p>	
<p>What is Autism?</p>	
<p>Autism is not easy to identify. People with Autism may act differently from other people.</p>	
<p>- People with Autism may have difficulty talking to other people</p>	
<p>- People with Autism may behave differently</p>	
<p>How does it affect children?</p>	
<p>- Children with Autism may not be able to understand what others say, feel and think</p>	
<p>- They may have trouble saying what they need</p>	

<p>- They may have problems making friends</p>	
<p>(E) WHAT IS STIGMATIZATION AND DISCRIMINATION?</p>	
<p>Stigma is when someone is considered less of a person by other people</p>	
<p>Discrimination is when someone is treated unfairly by other people</p>	
<p>Persons with intellectual disability are stigmatized and discriminated against by other people, and excluded from society.</p>	
<p>(F) DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY IN GHANA</p>	
<p>Inclusion Ghana wanted to find out about the level of stigmatisation, discrimination and exclusion of persons with intellectual disability.</p>	
<p>Parents, community leaders and specialists were interviewed.</p>	

<p>A report was written.</p>	
<p>The report says that persons with intellectual disability are treated unfairly in:</p>	
<p>- Education, Schools do not allow children with intellectual disability to go to school</p>	
<p>- Employment, Companies do not hire persons with intellectual disability</p>	
<p>- Health Care, Government policies are not good enough to help persons with intellectual disability</p>	
<p>- Social and community life The Community excludes and rejects persons with intellectual disability from society</p>	
<p>(F1) Education</p>	
<p>It is difficult for children with intellectual disability to get a good education because:</p>	
<p>- Most teachers are not trained on how to teach children with special needs</p>	

<p>- Many parents do not know there are special schools where they live</p>	
<p>There are some laws and government agencies that can help.</p>	
<p>Name of the Law or Government Agency:</p>	<p>What does it say or do:</p>
	<p>Basic education is free for every child</p> 
	<p>The government must take care of every child</p> 
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special Educational schools are set up for children with special needs - Parents can send their children to these schools - Every child can go to school even if they have a disability 

Special Education Division (**SPED**) set up by the Ministry of Education

Special Education Division (SPED)



The Special Education Division helps children with intellectual disability by providing:

- 6 years of basic education, then



- 4 years training in a particular skill, then



- 2 years of work and learn with employers



(F2) Health Care

It is difficult for children with intellectual disability to get good health care because:

- Many doctors may not have good knowledge of intellectual disability and do not give correct treatment;



- Most specialists in Intellectual Disability live in Accra;

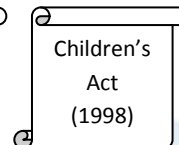


Specialist in Intellectual Disability in Accra

- Families living in the villages may not be able to get the correct help where they live;

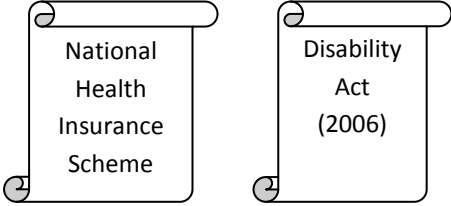



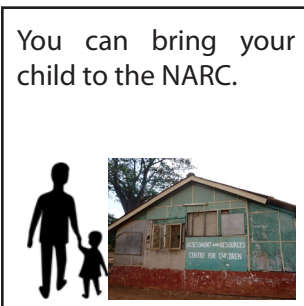





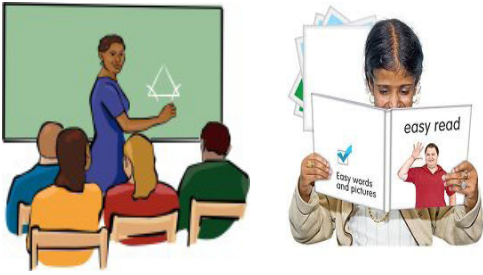



- Many people do not know the laws that the government has to help people with disability.

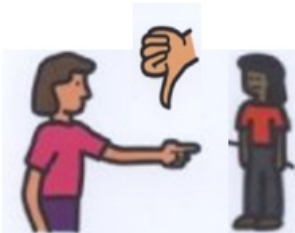


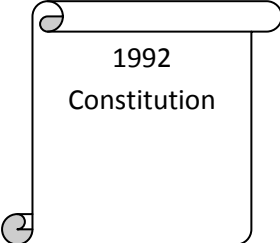




National Assessment and Resource Centre



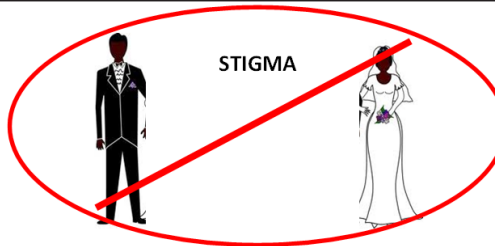
<p>There are some laws that can help.</p>	
<p>Name of the Law or Government Agency:</p>	<p>What does it say or do:</p>
	<p>Persons with disabilities do not pay for health care</p>
<p>What must you do?</p>	
<p>Go to a health clinic or hospital</p>	
<p>Register at a health clinic & Ask about the National Health Insurance Scheme</p>	
<p>National Assessment and Resource Centre (NARC)</p> 	<p>The National Assessment and Resource Centre (NARC) for Children with Disabilities works with the Ministry of Education to help children with disabilities</p>
<p>How can NARC help you?</p>	
<p>You can bring your child to the NARC.</p> 	<p>NARC will conduct assessments to determine the level of intellectual disability in children.</p> 
	<p>NARC will then tell you which school is suitable for your child</p> 

<p>There are different types of school to choose from.</p>	
<p>2 types of schools opened by the Government:</p>	<p>Special Schools and Integrated Schools</p>
<p>Special schools are only for children with intellectual disabilities.</p>	
<p>Integrated schools are regular schools for non-disabled children with special units for children with intellectual disabilities.</p>	
<p>There are also schools run by private organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Horizon School - Autism Awareness Care and Training Centre - Multikids Academy
<p>(F3) Employment</p>	
<p>It is difficult for persons with intellectual disabilities to get a job because:</p>	
<p>- Employers are afraid to lose customers</p>	
<p>- Employers may not want to spend time training</p>	

<p>- There is a wrong belief that persons with intellectual disabilities cannot do anything useful</p>	
<p>There are some laws that can help.</p>	
<p>Name of the Law:</p>	<p>What does it say:</p>
 <p>United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</p>	<p>- The government of Ghana must help train persons with intellectual disabilities who are looking for a job with the non-disabled people.</p> 
 <p>1992 Constitution</p>	<p>- Persons with disabilities are protected against unfair or abusive treatment</p>  <p>- Special benefits are given to persons with disabilities who are working in business</p> <p>Benefits</p>  <p>- Special benefits are also given to companies that employ a large number of persons with disabilities</p>

(F4) Marriage, Social and Community Life

- Because of stigma, it is difficult for persons with intellectual disabilities to marry and have their own children



- Persons with Autism have difficulty making friends



- Persons with intellectual disability and their parents face discrimination from others



There are some government agencies that can help.





Name of the Government Agency:

What does it do:

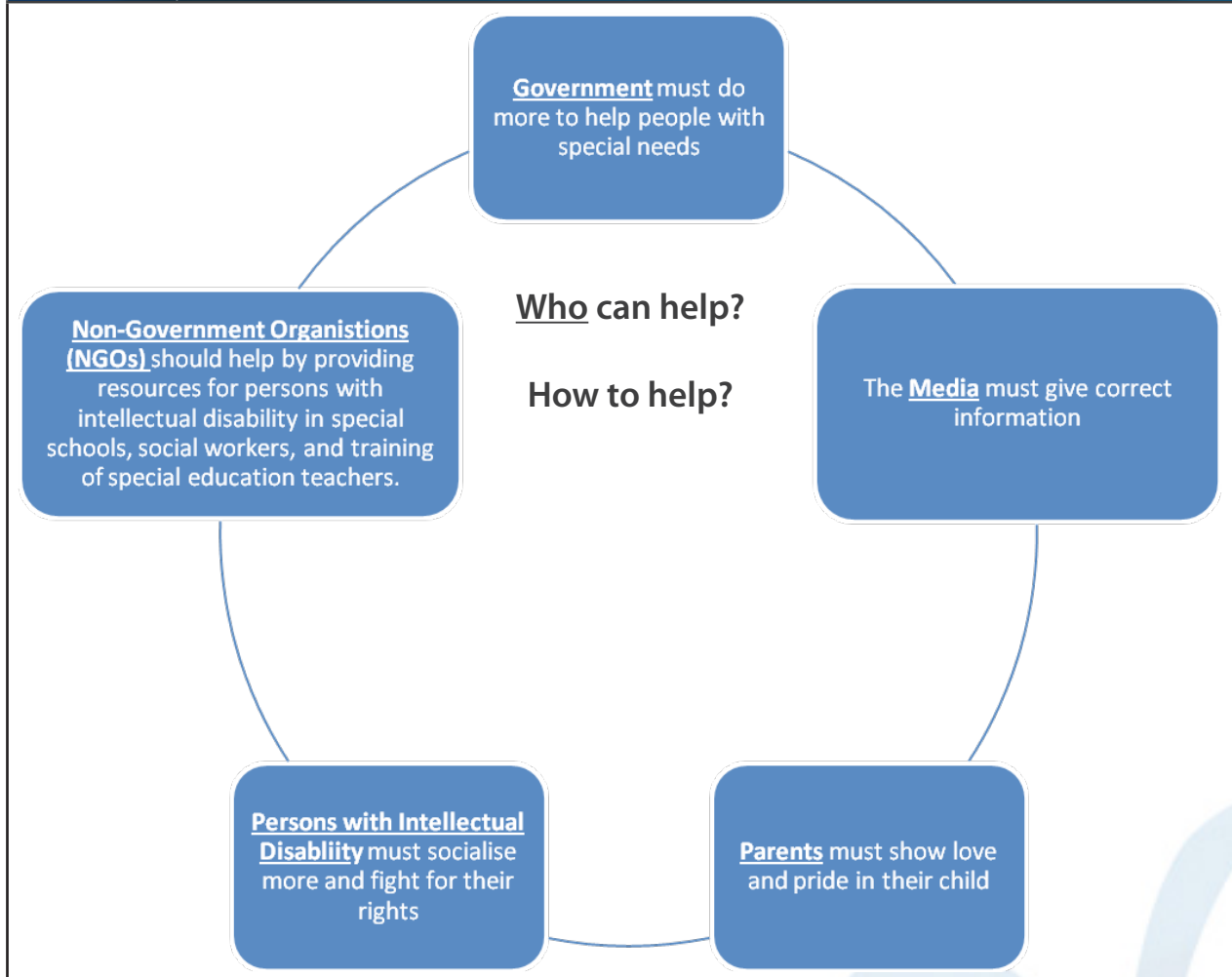
National Council on Persons with Disabilities




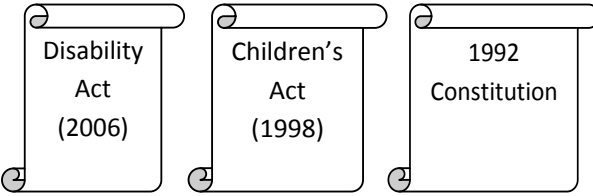
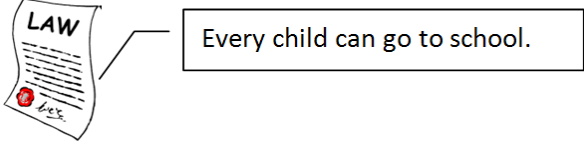



- Aims to develop policies to help persons with disabilities fit in better into society

<p>Unfair treatment excludes PWIDs from opportunities in all aspects of life and violates human rights.</p>	
<p>How to stop the unfair treatment:</p>	
<p>- Educate the public to change their negative attitudes.</p>	
<p>- People who learn more about PWIDs through television programs, studies or work treat them more fairly.</p>	
<p>- Have schools with both non-disabled and intellectually disabled children together</p>	

(G) Recommendations – How to help Persons with Intellectual Disability and their Families



(G1) What can Parents do?

<p>- Parents need to accept their child's disability</p>	
<p>- There are laws that protect persons with intellectual disability against unfair treatment</p>	
<p>- Parents need to learn what these laws say and how their children are protected by these laws....</p>	
<p>-so that they can make sure the government, schools and companies do the things the law says</p>	
<p>- Parents should form self help groups to share experiences and help one another</p>	
<p>- As a group, parents can more effectively fight unfair treatment against their children</p>	

(G2) What can the Government do?

Help persons with intellectual disability get better health care:

- Provide proper training for nurses and social workers in intellectual disability

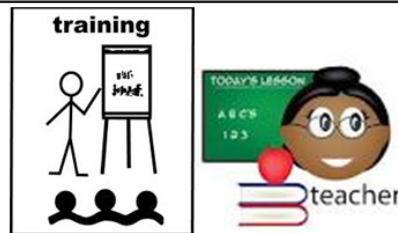


- Make sure that persons with intellectual disability are properly assessed so that they can be correctly treated



Help children with intellectual disability get a better education:

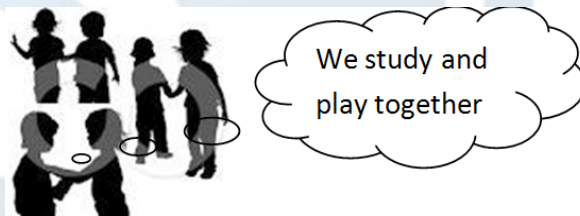
- Train teachers on how to teach children with intellectual disability




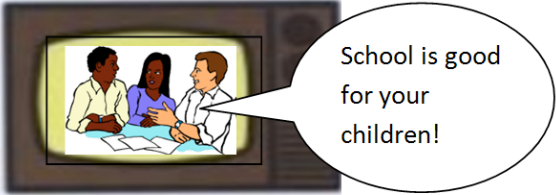
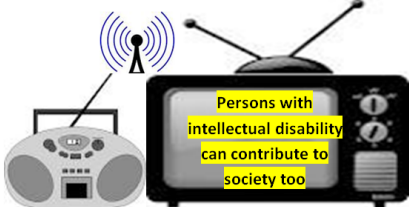


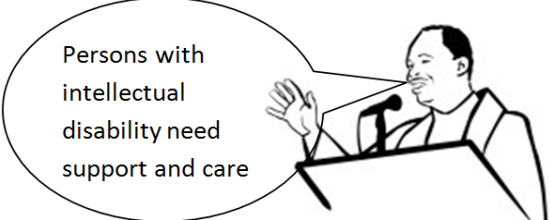
- Make the special schools and special units in integrated schools better


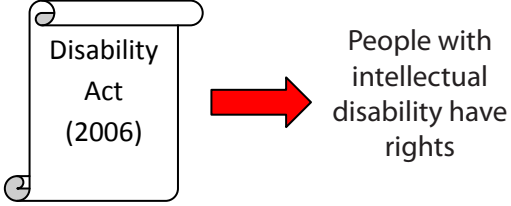



- Build more integrated schools so that non-disabled children can learn to accept children with intellectual disability



<p>- Build more schools in the villages and make sure parents know there are schools near where they live</p>	
<p>Help persons with intellectual disability get a <u>job</u>:</p>	
<p>- Provide training in a skill for persons with intellectual disability</p>	
<p>- Encourage employers to hire persons with intellectual disability</p>	
<p>- Give people more information about the Disability Lawso that there will be less unfair treatment of persons with intellectual disability</p>	
<p>(G3) What can the Media do?</p>	
<p>- Give information about support for persons with intellectual disabilities ...</p>	
<p>- ...so that parents know where to go for help</p>	

<p>- Help the public understand that it is unfair to exclude persons with intellectual disability</p>	
<p>- Encourage parents to send their children to school even if they have intellectual disability</p>	
<p>- Use television and radio to teach the public about intellectual disability ...</p>	
<p>- ...to help the public understand persons with intellectual disability can be useful too</p>	
<p>(G4) What can the Community do?</p>	
<p>Reduce discrimination against persons with intellectual disability and their families by doing these things:</p>	
<p>- Religious leaders should educate people about intellectual disability issues</p>	

<p>- Educate the public about the true causes of intellectual disability to correct wrong beliefs</p>	
<p>- Educate the public about the Disability Act</p>	
<p>- Inform people that it is important to send children with intellectual disability to school</p>	
<p>- Tell stories of persons with intellectual disability who have been successful and have helped society</p>	