

DISABILITY ETIQUETTE



Vocational
Training
Center

DISABILITY STATISTICS

- ❖ 54 million Americans with disabilities
- ❖ 50% Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- ❖ 25% Mental Disabilities
- ❖ 2% Wheelchair users
- ❖ Aging Population
- ❖ 30% of families with one or more member with a disability



PARADIGM SHIFT

1. Radical Change: a radical change in somebody's basic assumptions about or approach to something.



HANDICAP

1. a: to give a handicap to
b: to assess the relative winning chances of (contestants) or the likely winner of (a contest).
2. To put at a disadvantage



HANDICAPPED

1. [more handicapped; most handicapped] sometimes offensive :
having a physical or mental condition that limited what a person can
do : having a handicap
2. Designed or reserved for disabled people

HISTORY OF THE WORD

CLAIM

❖ The word *handicap* comes from “cap in hand” and refers to the physically disabled’s need to subsist as beggars

❖ 1504

❖ King Henry VII

❖ Disabled Veterans



HISTORY OF THE WORD

- ❖ Could not hold a job, or contribute to society
- ❖ Landmark legislation
- ❖ Cap in hand

HISTORY OF THE WORD

- ❖ Etymology quoted before which ties the word to ‘cap in hand’ is false.
- ❖ ‘cap in hand’ via a different route, handicap in short ‘hand in cap’
- ❖ ‘hand in cap’ since 1653 (lottery game)
- ❖ Over time it was shortened from Hand-in-cap to Handicap

HISTORY OF THE WORD

- ❖ Over time grew to be a barter game
- ❖ Became to be an action in a contest to be more equitable
- ❖ Handicapping: a term for leveling out the field
- ❖ The term jumped from equalizing a contest to impose impediment
- ❖ Grew again divorcing of its gaming association to mean physical limitations

TIMELINE

- ❖ First seen in 1653, where it refers to the lottery game
- ❖ 1754 described horse racing; superior horses were made to carry extra weight to equalize the field
- ❖ 1883 it leaked from the sporting world into mainstream language
- ❖ The first use of the word in conjunction with the disabled appears in 1915 as it was applied to physically crippled children.



PARADIGM SHIFT

- ❖ In the 50's it extended to also cover adults and the mentally disabled.

Handicapped is seen as offensive because it stresses the negative, possibly leading to a continued view of the disabled as less than worthy members of the human race.



ACCESSIBLE

Handicapped Parking instead say *Accessible parking*

Handicapped restroom instead say *Accessible restroom*

Handicapped entrance instead say *Accessible entrance*

Handicapped accessible building instead say just *Accessible building*