

Ableism Role Plays

Ableism Role Play #1

Characters (4): Isabelle (4 lines), Lucy (3 lines), Sylvester (1 line), Max (1 line)

Setting: Grocery store parking lot

Staging: Jenna and Lucy are in a car together, Sylvester and Max are in a car together

Isabelle: Ugh, I hate the Sunday rush at the grocery store. I can't find any spots!

Lucy: It's fine Isabelle, one will show up. Let's just circle around again.

Isabelle: I'm just going to pull in here really quickly, it will only be for a minute.

Lucy: Is that okay Isabelle? We don't have an accessible parking hanger and someone might need it.

Isabelle: It's fine! It will just be for a little bit. No one will care.

Isabelle (drives into an accessible parking spot)

Sylvester and Max are in the car next to Isabelle

Sylvester: Hey! We need that spot. (waves accessible parking hanger)

Isabelle ignores them and keeps walking

Max: I can't just use any spot. The accessible spots give me space to lower my chair onto the ground.

Lucy: Isabelle! We need to move. We will have to wait for another one. It's not fair for us to use it when we don't have a need. Let's just park on the street.

Isabelle: Whatever. Fine. (slams door)

Ableism Role Play #2

Characters (4): Rami (2 lines), Kevin (1 line), Taylor (3 lines), Ali (3 lines)

Setting: School hallway

Staging: All four students are standing next to each other. Rami is bouncing a basketball.

Ali: How was the game last night? I heard you beat Ridgewood. They had it coming!

Taylor: Our school is so lucky to have you as a captain, Rami. You're going to make us champions!

Ali: Woo!!! Go cougars!!

Rami: Last night was insane guys! We really creamed the other team. I made the winning shot and the crowd went mental!!! Can't believe you all missed it. (points at Taylor and Ali)

Kevin: Yeah, the other team was so retarded. They didn't know what hit 'em when we got onto the court. We dominated!

Taylor: Awesome that you won and did so well, but I don't really like the words you're using.

Rami: What words? What's wrong with you? We are trying to celebrate here and you're bringing us down.

Taylor: Words like insane, mental, and retarded are all words that used to describe people with disabilities.

When people use those words, they mean it as a bad thing. When you keep using those words it shows that society thinks of people with disabilities as negative.

Ali: Those words really hurt people with disabilities. We should all be more aware of our language so that we create an accepting and inclusive school.

Ableism Role Play #3

Characters (4): Paul (3 lines), Michel (1 line), Soo (3 lines), Caroline (2 lines)

Setting: Classroom

Staging: All four students are sitting at desks.

Paul: Do you guys think we will have a pop quiz today?

Michel: I don't know, Mr. Jones likes to surprise us every once in a while.

Soo: Yeah, that would really suck if we had one today. I forgot to do the reading!

Caroline: Oh no, oh no, oh no me too! Oh no! What if we have one? I didn't bring my lucky pencil!

Paul: What are you, OCD or something? Stop freaking out, it's making me nervous.

Soo: Stop it Paul, that's not a nice thing to say.

Paul: Lay off. It was only a joke.

Soo: OCD is short for obsessive compulsive disorder. It's a real thing that people have. When you say use it like that you minimize their experience and make their disability a joke.

Caroline: Thanks for sticking up for me, Soo. Even though I don't have OCD, I really appreciate it.

Ableism Role Play #4

Characters (4): Leah (4 lines), Charlie (2 lines), Jordan (1 line), Sam (3 lines)

Setting: Mall

Staging: Charlie and Jordan are working at the store, Leah and Sam are shopping

Leah: Do you think this would look cute on me? I want a new dress for my birthday.

Sam: Yeah, you should go try it on!

Leah to Charlie and Jordan: Excuse me, could you please unlock the accessible dressing room?

Charlie: It's not available.

Leah: Why not?

Jordan: We use that one to store extra hangers and mannequins.

Charlie: Why do you need it? You don't look like you have a disability.

Sam: Not every disability is visible, and she shouldn't have to explain herself to you. You need to make your store more accessible!

Leah: Let's go. It's not worth it.

Sam: Let's go to another store that's more inclusive. I'm sure we will find a great new dress for you.