

Style Guide – Relevant to Disability Issues

Eponyms do not take the possessive form;

Down not Down's, Klinefelter not Klinefelter's

Always use people-first nomenclature

A child with Down syndrome, not a Down syndrome child

Descriptive adjectives cannot become class names (nouns)

Do not use the retarded, the disabled, etc.

Also, obviously, not retardates (normates is problematic)

Avoid deprecatory descriptors

Such as low functioning, deficit, deficiency, affliction, slowness
(there are many kinder alternative forms)

The adjective “handicapped” has almost no appropriate use

(refers to societal constrictions, not personal status)

The word “disabled” is preferred, but used thoughtfully

Avoid stereotypic words and ideas, with limited expectations

Such as “persons like that ...”

Or preconceived notions about teenagers, etc.

An individual is never a “case”

This is a legal term, or part of public health statistics

A male or female should not be a primary identifier

Use boy, man, girl, woman

Use brother and/or sister, rather than sibling

A baby is never a “product” of a marriage or union

Assume important judgment-making capacity of most consumers