

## Echoes of Eugenics: How the Overextension of Medical Jurisdiction Impacts Disabled Culture

### Overview & Intent:

The intent of my Social Action Project, *Echoes of Eugenics: How the Overextension of Medical Jurisdiction Impacts Disabled Culture*, is to teach high school students a two-part lesson on both the history of eugenics and its present-day echoes. During the first part of my lesson, I plan to spend ten to fifteen minutes teaching the history of eugenics. I will present the history, making it seem as though it is a dead science. The latter part of the lesson is intended to shock students. In the second part of the lesson, I will explain how eugenic concepts still prevail; how eugenics is far from dead. Specifically, I will achieve this by focusing on one case study: the intersex community and genital reconstruction. My goal is to design activities that force students to decide if eugenic concepts are the driving force behind genital reconstruction surgeries of intersex babies; and if ultimately *normalizing* surgeries like these are necessary.

### Objectives:

- For students to think and reflect on their own biases toward disabilities by exploring their own universe of obligation.
- For students to learn a brief overview of the history of eugenics.
- For students to recognize how eugenic ideals impact the Intersex Community, and in turn the disabled community.

### Lesson Plan:

- **Introduction (15 minutes)**
  - Introduce myself (3 minutes)
  - Ground Rules (5 minutes)
    - Stress the importance of a safe environment.
  - Do now -- Universe of Obligation 1 (7 Minutes)
    - <https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/defining-community-universe-obligation>
    - Key Question: Did you include the “disabled?”
- **Eugenics (14 minutes)**
  - Brief History (10 minutes)
    - Sir Francis Galton & his ideals
  - Revisit-- Universe of Obligation 2 (4 minutes)
    - Prompt: Where would a eugenicist place the “disabled” on their Universe of Obligation? Why?
      - Discuss with neighbors.
- **Intersexuality (20 minutes)**
  - What does it mean? (10 minutes)
    - Medical Definition

- Work Sheet
  - The issue with genital reconstruction
- Interactive Activity:
  - Activity Two: Videos (10 minutes)
    - Waiting to Decide on Sex Surgery?
    - What It's Like To Be Intersex
    - Questions to think about while watching these videos:
      - Should doctors be allowed to perform these surgeries?
      - Is genital reconstruction an echo of eugenics?
      - Are intersexual individuals disabled?
- **Closing (6 minutes)**
  - Revisit-- Universe of Obligation 3 (2 minutes)
    - Prompt: After this lesson, where do you now place the “disabled” on your Universe of Obligation? Should they be included? Why or why not?
  - Big Picture (3 minutes)
    - How the terms disabled/enabled are also a product of eugenic thinking
    - How we shouldn't use these terms unless individuals say it's okay to
    - How to be an Intersex ally
  - Final Wrap-Up (1 minute)
    - Thank everyone → ensure everyone receives my contact information

TOTAL TIME PASSED: 55 Minutes