Paper 2: Journalistic Research

Background: We have now had a bit of time to question stereotypes about disability and to think about person-first narratives. You have also met with your SNAP conversation partners and had a research session at the library. It’s now time to combine all of this together.

Assignment: Often, newspapers and magazines will include researched, journalistic pieces; in addition to someone’s story, they might offer information, quotations, statistics, etc (see samples on OAKS). In 5-7 pages, write one of these pieces about the person you interviewed and her/his disability. Make sure to merge the interview with the research so that it continually relates back to the person with whom you talked.

Include with the final version of the article a “Dear Reader” letter that answers the following questions:

- What are the strengths of your piece? What are its problems?
- What were the challenges you encountered writing the essay and how did you address them?
- If you had two more days to revise the essay, what additional changes would you make and why?

Support your response to these questions with specific details from your essay and experience.

Length & Format: 5-7 pages, double-spaced

Due Dates:
- Final draft due 2/27
- Final paper due 3/4

Assignment Specifications: Below are the criteria I will use to assess each student’s essay.

An effective essay
- Uses vivid detail to describe your conversation partner
- Effortlessly merges details from your conversation with research from at least three peer-reviewed sources
- Cites external information, as well as the interview itself. You may use whatever citation method your discipline uses, but it must be consistent.
- Will be grammatically clean, lending to a pleasant, smooth reading experience.