

# Person First Language



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION  
KANE COUNTY



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ROE



## Pre-Workshop Activity



Image Credit: Google Images

Open Mouth...Insert Foot!



Image  
Credit:  
Google  
Images



**The difference between the right word and  
the almost right word is the difference  
between lightning and the lightning bug.**

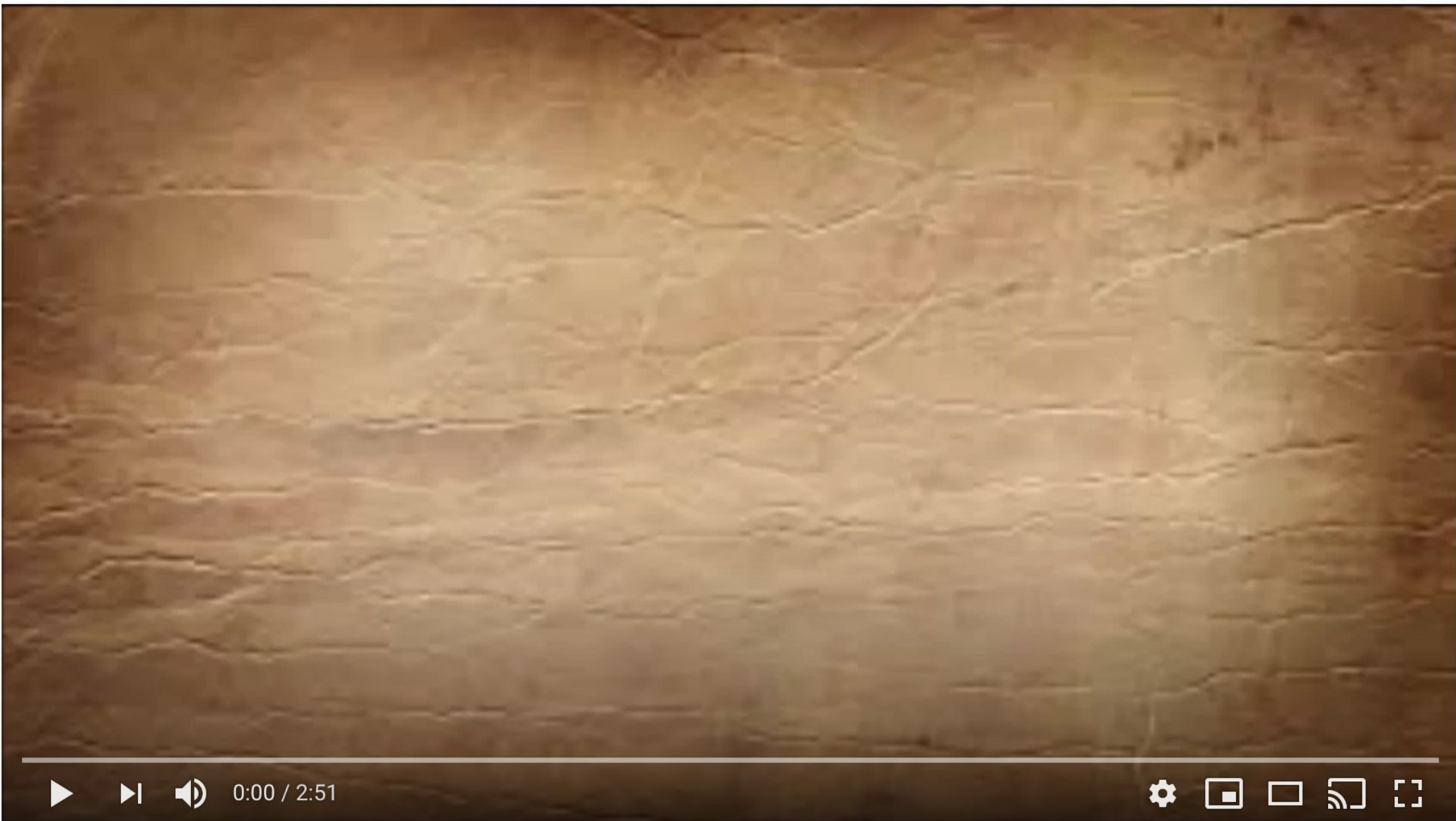
***-Mark Twain***





# Identity-First Language Vs. Person-First Language





# A History of Special Education Law




# A Little History

1975	1986	1990	2004 & Beyond
<p>Education for All Handicapped Children Act (Public Law 94-142, Part B)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Known as the Mainstreaming Law</b></li><li>• <b>Requires states to provide a free &amp; appropriate public education for children with disabilities (ages 5-18)</b></li><li>• <b>Requires individualized education programs (IEP)</b></li></ul>	<p>Education of the Handicapped Act (Public Law 99-457)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Requires states to extend free &amp; appropriate education to children with disabilities (ages 3-5)</b></li><li>• <b>Establishes early intervention programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities (age birth-2)</b></li></ul>	<p>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (Public Law 101-476)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Established “people first” language</b></li><li>• <b>Extends special education services to include social work, assistive technology, &amp; rehabilitation services</b></li><li>• <b>Requires states to provide bilingual education programs for students with disabilities</b></li></ul>	<p>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (Public Law 108-446)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Allows districts to use a response to intervention (RTI) model for determining whether a child has a specific learning disability &amp; no longer requires that a child have a severe discrepancy between achievement &amp; intellectual ability to qualify.</b></li></ul>





# Not Just in Education

- For education - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
  - For social services - Illinois Dept. on Aging
  - For post secondary - Office of Disability Services at university/college
  - For employment - Dept. of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy
- 

# Advocates for Person-First Language



## Did you know???....

People with disabilities are our largest minority group, most inclusive – all ages, genders, religions, ethnicities, sexual orientations and socioeconomic levels.



Source: *A Few Words about Person First Language*, Kathy Snow, 2008

# The Arc of the United States







# What is Person-First Language


“At its core, person-first language seeks to acknowledge the inherent and equal value of every individual, before attaching any other descriptors or identities the person may view as secondary or not intrinsic. Communicating using person-first language begins with empathy.”



# What is Person-First Language

- Emphasizes the person first, not the disability
- Describes what a person has, not what a person is
- Used to speak respectfully about an individual with a disability
- Handicapped, Special Needs, Wheelchair bound

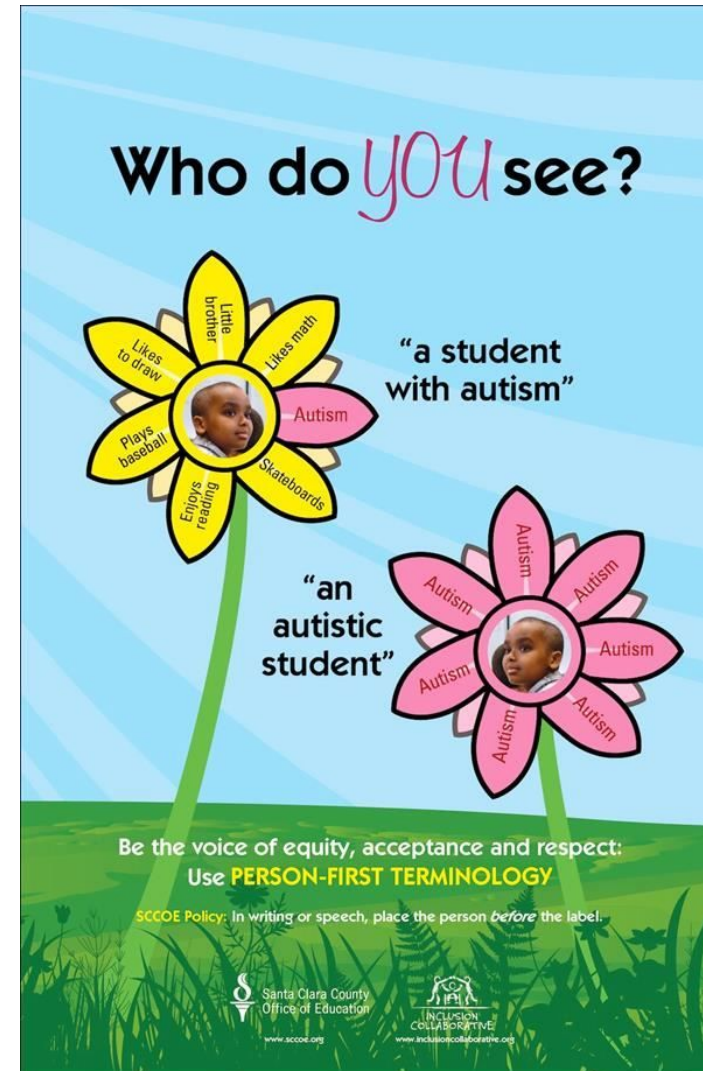
Source: *A Few Words about Person First Language*, Kathy Snow, 2008



# What is Person-First Language

Acknowledges that students with disabilities are students first, not their disability. Student First Language recognizes that ALL people have many different characteristics, skills, strengths, challenges and interests, having a disability should not define who you are or the way you are viewed by others.


<https://www.pasoschools.org/Page/1471>





## Examples

<b>Student First Language</b>	<b>NOT Student First Language</b>
She has diabetes	She's diabetic.
He has a learning disability.	He's disabled
He has a developmental delay	He's developmentally delayed or He's DD





Lets Play a Game

The Kahoot! logo is centered on a solid purple rectangular background. The word "Kahoot!" is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font. A subtle shadow of the text is cast to the bottom-left, creating a 3D effect.


# Kahoot!



## Your Turn



- The handicapped or disabled
- She's autistic
- He's mentally retarded
- He's Down's
- She's quadriplegic
- Abused Children
- She's disabled
- He's mentally ill
- He's confined to a wheelchair
- A SPED Kid
- He's developmentally delayed
- Student is normal
- She's non-verbal
- Brain damaged

Source: *A Few Words about Person First Language*, Kathy Snow, 2008



## Last Video





Until we learn to appreciate the power of language and the importance of using it responsibly, we will continue to produce negative social consequences for those victimized by dangerous language habits.

J. Dan Rothwell, *Telling It Like It Isn't:  
Language Misuse and Malpractice/What We Can Do About It*





# Resources

“People First Language.” *Disability Is Natural*, [www.disabilityisnatural.com/people-first-language.html](http://www.disabilityisnatural.com/people-first-language.html).

“Special Education / Person First Language.” / *Person First Language*, [www.pasoschools.org/Page/1471](http://www.pasoschools.org/Page/1471).

“Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).” *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*, [sites.ed.gov/idea/](http://sites.ed.gov/idea/).

*Advocacy 101*, [www.familytofamilynetwork.org/parent-resources/people-first-language](http://www.familytofamilynetwork.org/parent-resources/people-first-language).

“ARCHIVED - Thirty-Five Years of Progress in Educating Children With Disabilities Through IDEA-- Pg 10.” *Home*, 27 Apr. 2016, [www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/idea35/history/index\\_pg10.html](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/idea35/history/index_pg10.html).

“Special Education / The Evolution of Special Education Law.” / *The Evolution of Special Education Law*, [www.warrenhills.org/Page/364](http://www.warrenhills.org/Page/364).



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