DisCrit Analysis, Paper, and Presentation

**Draft Due Date:** Week 6 (3/1/2021)

**Total points:** 15 Points

**Word Count:** 1,250 (approx. 5 pages)

You will be learning about identity politics and DisCrit, which is a dual analysis of race and ability: Dis/ability Critical Race Studies, also known as DisCrit. This analysis will let you explore connections between interdependent constructions of race and dis/ability in education and within society.

This assignment is broken up into three parts:

1. a draft paper;
2. a final paper; and,
3. a presentation.

You will be working within an assigned team of class members and will get to know and learn about an organization or a disability leader. You can find a list of organizations or leaders below. If your team wants to explore another organization or leader, please consult with the instructors before you finalize your choice. Your team will be expected to spend time getting to know the organization or the disability leader over a period of weeks to understand his/her history, get a sense of what this person wants for the future, and gain an understanding of what is working well or not working

**Disability Organizations and Leaders**

1. Arc of Virginia
2. Endependent Center in Norfolk
3. Southerners on the Ground
4. Lydia X. Z. Brown
5. KripHop Nation
6. Ed Roberts
7. Judith Heumann
8. Justin Dart
9. Autism Speaks
10. Austic Self Advocacy Network
11. **DRAFT ASSIGNMENT (DUE MARCH 1st):**

To begin your assignment, you will need to meet with your group. The draft must include the first components of your final paper:

1. gather information;
2. tell the organization or leader’s story;
3. identify a major goal or problem of significance; and,
4. write a paper that connects what you learned using a DisCrit analysis.

In the gathering information step, you will need to do research about the organization or leader and explain how concepts of power, privilege, and social change relate to the organization or leader. You must identify which movement that your organization or leader will fit into. For example, disability rights, disability justice, independent living movement, etc. You should expound upon structural oppression, cultural inferences, and political resistance of the organization or leader’s life.

In the identification of the major goals of the paper, you will write about the relationship between disability culture, disability communities, and rights-based struggles, including broad-based human rights. Finally, you will explain whether the organization falls within the frameworks of disability justice, disability rights, or both. Finally, you will connect what you learned using a DisCrit analysis. Your analysis should include at least four of the tenets listed below.

1. How racism and ableism operate interdependently and often neutralizes and invisible ways and upholds ideas of normalcy (2018: 55);
2. How your organization deals with multidimensional and intersecting identities and deals with singular notions of identity such as race or dis/ability or class or gender or sexuality, and so on (2018: 56);
3. How your organization emphasizes the social constructions of race and ability and yet recognizes the material and psychological impacts of being labeled as raced or dis/abled, which sets one outside of the western cultural norms (2018: 57);
4. How your organization amplifies voices of marginalized populations, traditionally not acknowledged within services, advocacy, and/or research (2018: 58);
5. Does your organization consider legal and historical aspects of dis/ability and race and include how both have been used separately and together to deny the rights of citizens (2018: 58);
6. Does your organization recognize Whiteness and ability as property and that gains for people labeled with dis/abilities have largely been made as the result of interest convergence of White, middle-class citizens” (2018: 60);
7. What advocacy does the organization use for combatting racism and ableism (2018: 61).

Please note that your draft should also be as complete as possible to better utilize your instructors’ feedback,

**II. FINAL PAPER (DUE APRIL 26th)**

For your revised analysis, we want you to critically examine each tenet that you choose and provide examples of the tenets within your paper. It is alright if your organization or leader does not align with a tenet, however, your analysis must include strategies on how these tenets can be integrated into the leader’s life or organization’s structures.

You should include a write-up of which group member completed which part of the assignment.

**III. PRESENTATION (ON MAY 3rd)**

You will prepare a 25-40min presentation of your final paper. Be sure to include which movement that your organization or leader will fit into (for example: disability rights, disability justice, independent living movement, etc.), relevant analysis of structural oppression, cultural inferences, and political resistance of the organization or leader’s life, as well as the four tenets you examined in your paper.

**Resources**

Zoom accounts are licensed to VCU students. You can log into your account by visiting zoom.vcu.edu and logging in with your VCU credentials. To read the entire policy, please [visit here](https://logs.vcu.edu/zoom/catergory/policy/).

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| **Grading Rubric (DisCrit Draft Assignment)** | | | | | | |
| **CATEGORY** | **Excellent**  **5 points** | **Good**  **4 points** | **Satisfactory**  **3 points** | **Below Average**  **2 points** | **Needs Improvement**  **1 point** | **Score** |
| **Gathering Information** | The concepts of power, privilege, and social change are explained accurately and concepts are interwoven throughout the paper as it relates to the disability community. | The concepts of power, privilege, and social change are mostly explained accurately. Two concepts are interwoven throughout the paper as it relates to the disability community. | The concepts of power, privilege, and social change are explained, but not completely accurate. Two concepts are interwoven throughout the paper as it relates to the disability community. | The concepts of power, privilege, and social change are explained, but not accurate. One concept is interwoven throughout the paper as it relates to the disability community. | The concepts of power, privilege, and social change are not explained or accurate. None of the concepts are interwoven throughout the paper as it relates to the disability community. |  |
| **Organization or Leader’s Story** | The organization or leader’s story is accurately described as it relates to a disability rights movement and explains how structural oppression and cultural inferences are used in the organization or leader’s life. | The organization or leader’s story is mostly explained accurately as it relates to a disability rights movement and explains how structural oppression is used in the organization or leader’s life. | The organization or leader’s story is mostly explained but is not completely accurate as it relates to a disability rights movement and there is no mention of structural oppression or cultural inferences used in the organization or leader’s life. | The organization or leader’s story is explained but is not accurate as it relates to a disability rights movement and there is no mention of structural oppression or cultural inferences used in the organization or leader’s life. | The organization or leader’s story is not explained as it relates to a disability rights movement and there is no mention of structural oppression or cultural inferences used in the organization or leader’s life. |  |
| **Clarity and Format** | Edited for clarity and continuity. None to little grammatical errors and has 1,250 words. | Edited for clarity and continuity. Some grammatical errors and has 1,250 words. | Needs editing for clarity and continuity, some grammatical errors, and has less than 1,250 words. | Organizational problems with clarity and continuity, some grammatical errors and has less than 1,000 words. | Needs extraneous editing and has grammatical errors and has less than 750 words. |  |

DisCrit Analysis Final Paper

**Due Date:** Week 14 (4/26/2021)

**Total points:** 25 Points

**Word Count:** 2,500 (approx. 10 pages)

You submitted a draft of your paper. You need to finish your analysis of the organization or the disability leader that you chose. In the final paper, you need to use at least two DisCrit tenets and analyze them. You can find these tenets in the PowerPoint on Canvas. As a reminder, DisCrit is a dual analysis of race and ability: Dis/ability Critical Race Studies, also known as DisCrit. This analysis will let you explore connections between interdependent constructions of race and dis/ability in education and within society.

The next two parts of the assignment are:

1. a final paper; and,
2. a group presentation.

You already identified an organization or a disability leader and you need to use a DisCrit analysis to finish your paper. You need to read the feedback on your draft and make any edits you need.

1. **FINAL PAPER ASSIGNMENT (DUE APRIL 26TH):**

Your group needs to read the comments that were provided on the draft. You can make any edits or changes to the draft. The word count includes the draft that you already submitted. You need to provide an analysis by using at least two tenets.

In the identification of the major goals of the paper, you will write about the relationship between disability culture, disability communities, and rights-based struggles, including broad-based human rights. Then you will explain whether the organization falls within the frameworks of disability justice, disability rights, or both. Finally, you will connect what you learned using a DisCrit analysis. Your analysis should include at least two of the tenets listed below.

1. How racism and ableism operate interdependently and often neutralizes and invisible ways and upholds ideas of normalcy (2018: 55);
2. How your organization deals with multidimensional and intersecting identities and deals with singular notions of identity such as race or dis/ability or class or gender or sexuality, and so on (2018: 56);
3. How your organization emphasizes the social constructions of race and ability and yet recognizes the material and psychological impacts of being labeled as raced or dis/abled, which sets one outside of the western cultural norms (2018: 57);
4. How your organization amplifies voices of marginalized populations, traditionally not acknowledged within services, advocacy, and/or research (2018: 58);
5. Does your organization consider legal and historical aspects of dis/ability and race and include how both have been used separately and together to deny the rights of citizens (2018: 58);
6. Does your organization recognize Whiteness and ability as property and that gains for people labeled with dis/abilities have largely been made as the result of interest convergence of White, middle-class citizens” (2018: 60);
7. What advocacy does the organization use for combatting racism and ableism (2018: 61).

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| **Grading Rubric (DisCrit Final Paper)** | | | | | | |
| **CATEGORY** | **Excellent**  **5 points** | **Good**  **4 points** | **Satisfactory**  **3 points** | **Below Average**  **2 points** | **Needs Improvement**  **1 point** | **Score** |
| **DisCrit Tenets** | Two tenets are accurately described and background information about the tenets is provided. They are accurately related to the organization or disability leader. | Two tenets are accurately described. They are accurately related to the organization or disability leader. | Two tenets are described. They are loosely related to the organization or disability leader. | One tenet is described. It is related to the organization or disability leader. | One tenet is described. It is not related to the organization or disability leader. |  |
| **Analysis** | The analysis is clear, uses two tenets to explain your analysis, and is strongly related to the conclusion. | The analysis is clear, uses two tenets to explain your analysis, and is loosely related to the conclusion. | The analysis is unclear, uses two tenets to explain your analysis, and is not related to the conclusion. | The analysis is unclear, uses one tenet to explain your analysis, and is not related to the conclusion. | The analysis is unclear, uses one tenet to explain your analysis, and there is not a conclusion. |  |
| **Disability Rights/Justice** | The analysis accurately states how the organization or leader uses/used a disability justice and/or disability rights framework. | The analysis clearly states how the organization or leader uses/used a disability justice and/or disability rights framework. | The analysis states how the organization or leader uses/used a disability justice and/or disability rights framework. | The analysis inaccurately states how the organization or leader uses/used a disability justice and/or disability rights framework. | The analysis does not state how the organization or leader uses/used a disability justice and/or disability rights framework. |  |
| **Self Grade** | You graded your group member’s contributions through a form. | You graded your group member’s contributions through a form. | You graded your group member’s contributions through a form. | You graded your group member’s contributions through a form. | You graded your group member’s contributions through a form. |  |
| **Clarity and Format** | Edited for clarity and continuity. Little to no grammatical errors and has 2,500 words. | Edited for clarity and continuity. Some grammatical errors and 2,500 words. | Needs editing for clarity and continuity, some grammatical errors, and has less than 2,500 words. | Organizational problems with clarity and continuity, some grammatical errors and has less than 2,000 words. | Needs extraneous editing and has grammatical errors and has less than 1,750 words. |  |

DisCrit Analysis, Paper, and Presentation

**Draft Due Date:** Week 15 (5/3/2021)

**Total points:** 10 Points

**Length:** 25 - 40 minutes

You submitted the final paper. In the presentation, you need to use all DisCrit tenets from your final paper. You can find these tenets in the PowerPoint on Canvas. As a reminder, DisCrit is a dual analysis of race and ability: Dis/ability Critical Race Studies, also known as DisCrit. This analysis will let you explore connections between interdependent constructions of race and dis/ability in education and within society.

The final part of your assignment is the group presentation.

I. PRESENTATION (ON MAY 3rd)

You will prepare a 25 - 40min presentation of your final paper. Be sure to include the following elements:

1. The social movement that your organization or leader will fit into (for example: disability rights, disability justice, independent living movement, etc.);
2. a relevant analysis of structural oppression;
3. cultural inferences;
4. political resistance of the organization or leader’s life; and,
5. all DisCrit tenets from your paper.

You are welcome to use any presentation style your group decides to use. This presentation should be interactive and ask questions. You’re welcome to share videos, pictures, and other multimedia to highlight your organization or leader. If one of the team members wants to present the bulk of the content, please make sure that you identify the roles that each member contributed to the presentation. For example, if one person presents the other person does the content for the slides or outline and this should be stated during the presentation.

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| **Grading Rubric (DisCrit Presentation)** | | | | | | |
| **CATEGORY** | **Excellent**  **5 points** | **Good**  **4 points** | **Satisfactory**  **3 points** | **Below Average**  **2 points** | **Needs Improvement**  **1 point** | **Score** |
| **Content** | All five elements are included and accurately described. | Four of the five elements are included and described. | Three of the elements are included and described. | Two of the elements are included and described. | One of the elements is included and described. |  |
| **Presentation Style** | All of the team members are involved in the presentation and the presentation is interactive. | Some of the team members are involved in the presentation and the presentation is interactive. | Some of the team members are involved in the presentation and the presentation is not interactive. | One of the team members presented and the presentation is interactive. | One of the team members presented and the presentation is not interactive. |  |