

# **WHICH PUBLIC? INTELLECTUAL GATEKEEPING AND COGNITIVE ACCESSIBILITY IN PUBLIC WRITING**

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# PROJECT TEAM



**AMY  
SILVERMAN**

Executive Producer,  
The Show at KJZZ



**BEENA  
RAGHAVENDRAN**

Editor, New York  
Times



**PHILLIS  
SCHMIDBAUER**

Self-Advocate,  
Accessibility  
Consultant



**DARIUS  
CUNNINGHAM**

Self-Advocate,  
Accessibility  
Consultant

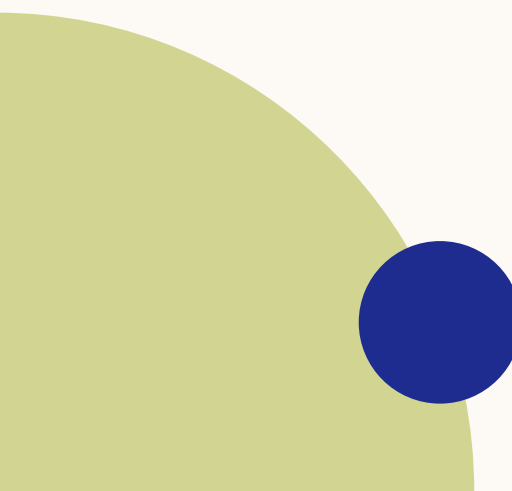


**BECCA  
MONTELEONE**

Assistant Professor of  
Disability Studies,  
University of Toledo

**“NORTH AMERICAN NEWSPAPER  
NARRATIVES HAVE A HISTORY  
OF IGNORING, DEVALUING, OR  
MISREPRESENTING DISABILITY  
ISSUES”**

Beth Haller, 2010, 46





**ACCESS IN  
MEDIA HAS BEEN  
REDUCED TO A  
SET OF  
STANDARDS OR  
AN  
AFTERTHOUGHT**

Jones, Collins, Zbitnew, 2021

**MENTAL AGE ATTRIBUTIONS  
“STRIP PEOPLE WITH  
INTELLECTUAL AND  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
OF OUR DIGNITY, OUR  
REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM, AND  
OUR PARENTAL RIGHTS.”**

Ivanova Smith, 2017

The background features a vertical line that divides the space. To the left of this line, there are several overlapping geometric shapes: a light green circle with white concentric lines, a light blue semi-circle, a light green triangle, a light pink triangle, and a light red triangle. To the right of the vertical line, the background is plain white.

**PERCEIVED  
INTELLECTUAL  
DISABILITY AS A  
METHOD OF CONTROL**

# THE FEEBLE-MINDED


OR THE

HUB TO OUR WHEEL OF VICE, CRIME  
AND PAUPERISM



*Cincinnati's Problem*

1915 Pamphlet from the Juvenile Protection Association of Cincinnati



**PEOPLE WITH  
INTELLECTUAL  
DISABILITIES ARE DENIED  
ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE  
AND THEIR RIGHTS AS  
KNOWERS**



# THE PROJECT

Full Series  
Page:



[https://www.  
propublica.  
org/  
series/state-  
of-denial](https://www.propublica.org/series/state-of-denial)

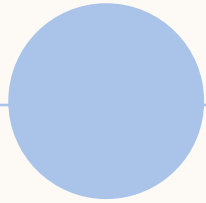


Arizonans with developmental or intellectual disabilities who have struggled to get care from the state. Top row, left to right: Eric Nunn, Emory Webster and Drew Bolender. Bottom row, left to right: Mike Lundergan, Kyra Wade and Jaden Ruiz. (Kareem Samuels/Make Studio for ProPublica)

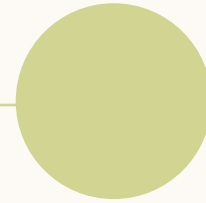
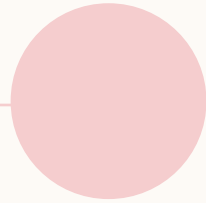
STATE OF DENIAL

**People with Developmental  
Disabilities Were Promised Help.  
Instead, They Face Delays and Denials.**

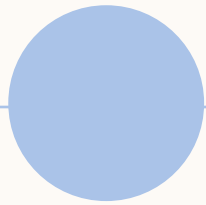
# STRATEGIES TOWARD EPISTEMIC JUSTICE: 1



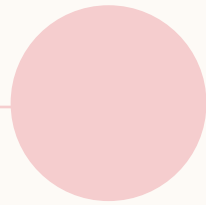
**INTENTIONAL  
AND  
MEANINGFUL  
CENTERING OF  
SOURCES WITH  
ID**



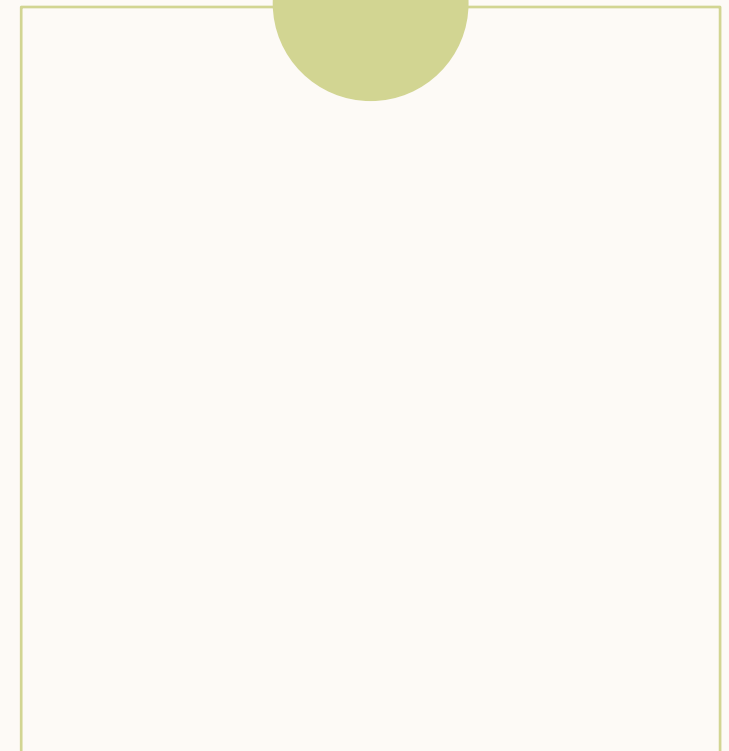
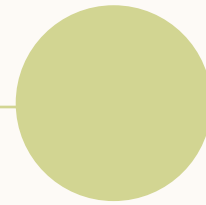
# **STRATEGIES TOWARD EPISTEMIC JUSTICE: 2**



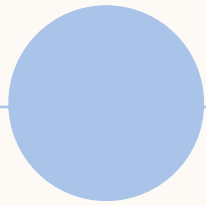
**INTENTIONAL  
AND  
MEANINGFUL  
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SOURCES WITH  
ID**



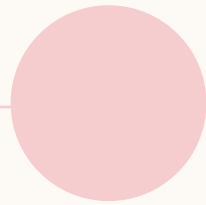
**PUBLIC  
EVENTS AND  
ENGAGEMENT  
ACTIVITIES**



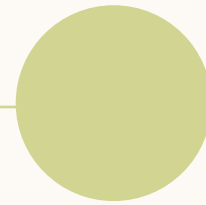
# **STRATEGIES TOWARD EPISTEMIC JUSTICE: 3**



**INTENTIONAL  
AND  
MEANINGFUL  
CENTERING OF  
SOURCES WITH  
ID**



**PUBLIC  
EVENTS AND  
ENGAGEMENT  
ACTIVITIES**



**DIVERSE  
APPROACHES  
TO ACCESS**

# PLAIN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION

Kyra Wade's favorite color is pink. The 11-year-old likes road trips and the movie "Monsters, Inc." She loves to watch people laugh. Her culinary preferences run to noodles and rice.

Beyond that, her parents don't know much about her needs and wants.

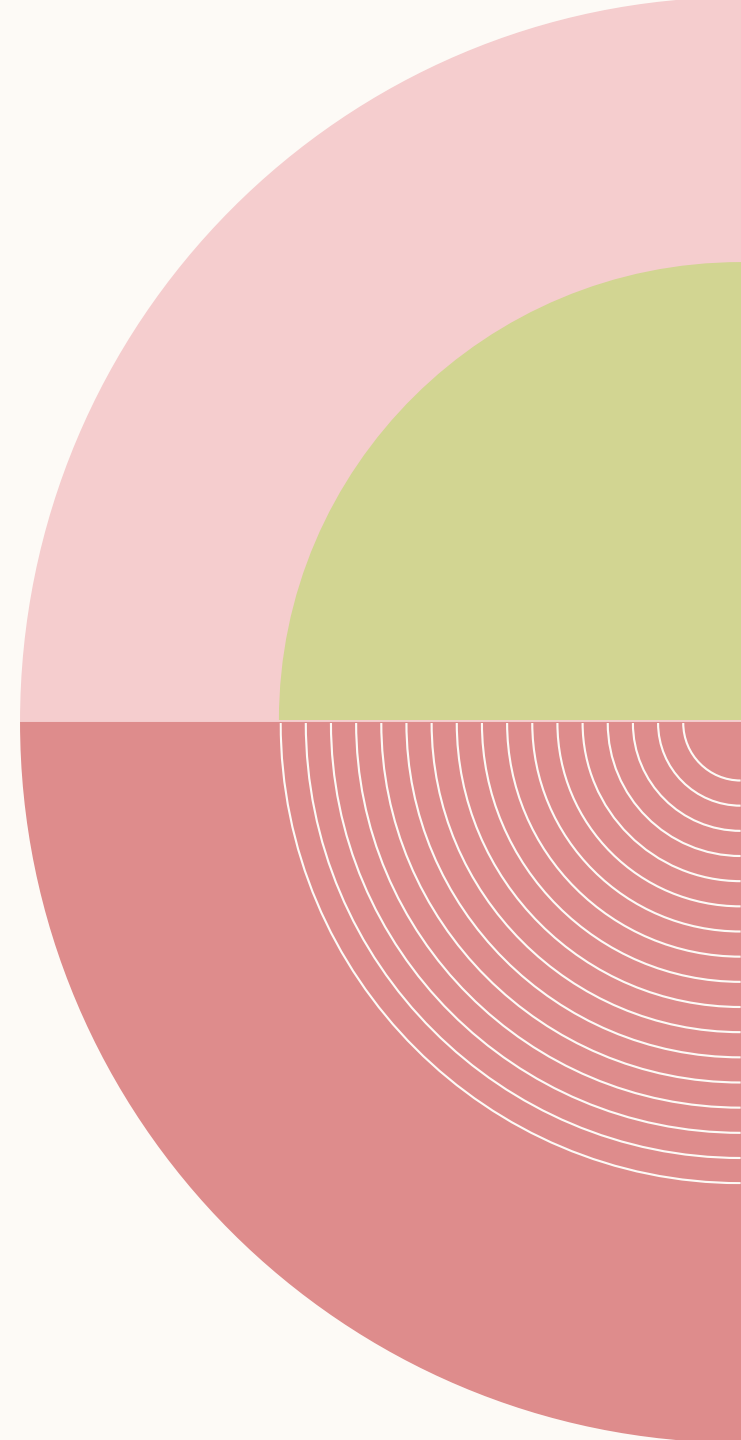
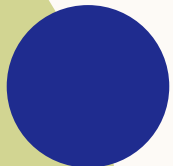
Kyra Wade is 11 years old.  
She likes:

- The color pink
- Road trips
- The movie "Monsters, Inc."
- Watching people laugh
- Noodles and rice

Kyra's parents don't know what else Kyra likes or wants.

# **WHERE TO NEXT?**

- **Beyond Plain Language**
- **Reaching Our Audience**
- **Changing Control**

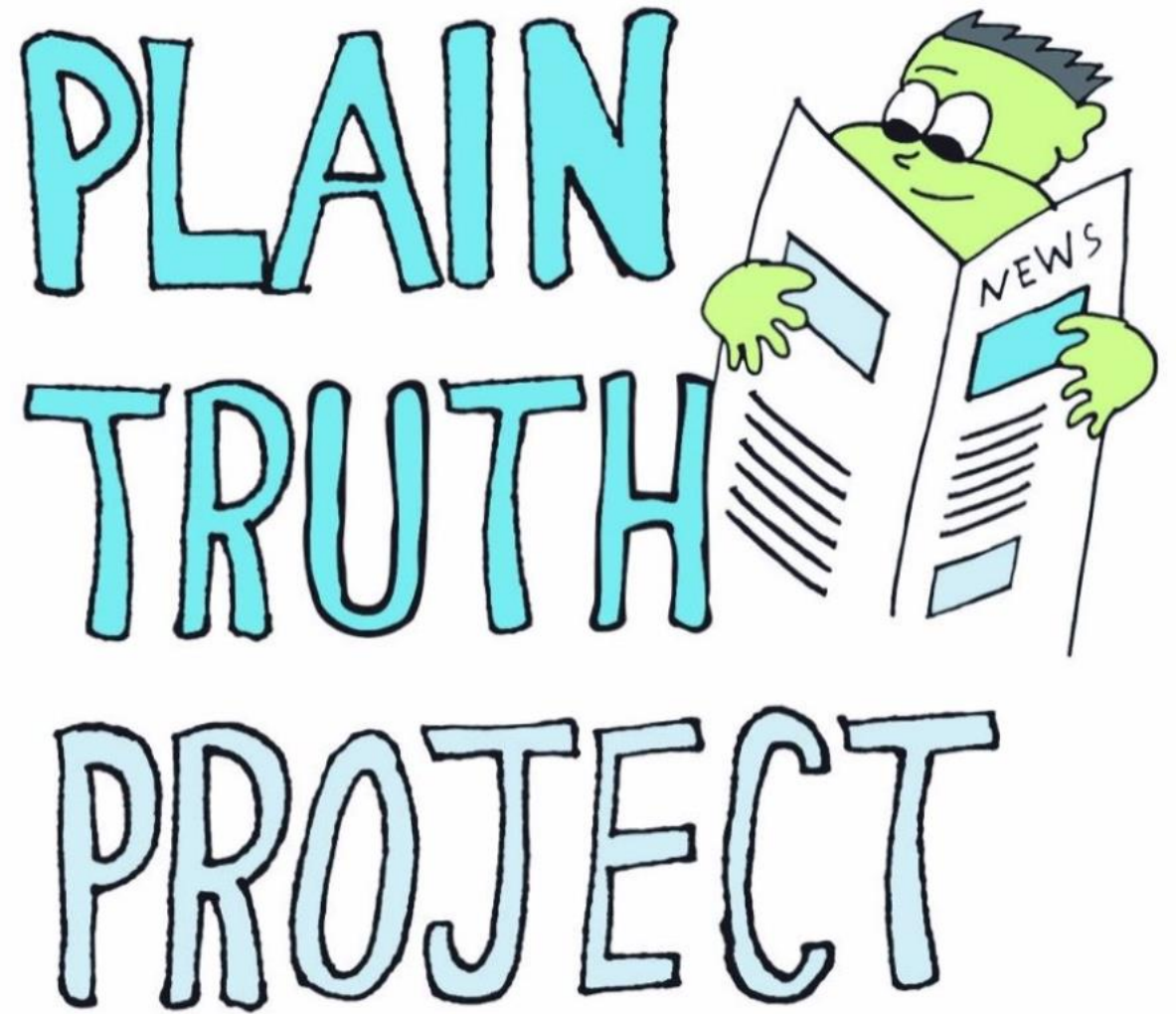


**TO LEARN  
MORE:**

**[https://www.PlainTruth  
Project.org/](https://www.PlainTruthProject.org/)**

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UToledo.Edu**

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