

# Famous People with Disabilities

## Activity

**Display the table which shows famous people with a learning disability. Ask students:**

- ✓ *What do you think of this information? Who or what surprises you?*

Ask students :

- ✓ *Do you know of a current female singer-dancer who has a disability?*
- ✓ *She completed a concert tour of Europe in the Fall of 2011. Tour was called "Femme Fatale"*
- ✓ *She was born December 2, 1981, and has sold over 1 million albums world-wide.*
- ✓ *She is..... (Britney Spears) Display picture of Spears, if available.*
- ✓ *Her disability is.....(bi-polar) Write term "bi-polar" on board and give verbal definition.*
- ✓ *Have you heard of this condition? Do you know anyone who may be bi-polar?*
  
- ✓ *To students: You may research this term, bi-polar, on-line for extra credit in this class. Be ready to share your findings with the class in two days.*

Assign students the research guide along with their famous person to research. Review the questions quickly that will guide their research. The one most important topic to emphasize is:

- ✓ *The attributes (traits) required of a person with a disability to become successful*

## Objectives

- Name three or more people who have become famous for a talent or strength and also have a disability
- Become familiar with a larger range of disabilities
- Understand that a disability is not an obstacle for most future plans

## Materials

Copies of LP B Famous People with a Disability

Copies of Famous Person Research & Presentation Guide

Enough computers for research to take place within one class period

A copy of the Successful and Famous People with LD, to show the class an overhead as an opening activity

Optional: Picture for overhead projection of Britney Spears, after you have completed three questions, found below in the opening activity

## Vocabulary

- Disability terms which arise during student research on computers
- Bi-polar
- Students can write the disability term attributed to their famous person on the board

## Summary

For a journal entry, students can:

- ✓ *Reflect on, then identify, your own goal(s) for transitioning to adulthood, and what you will need to do, think, or act upon to achieve your goals, in spite of obstacles and challenges. Can you predict what one or more obstacles might be? How will you deal with challenges?*

### Notes for Teachers

If you plan to assign each of you students one person, you may want to study the list of famous people for the match-ups, making the assignments ahead of time

Depending on the size of your class, you may want to omit half of the famous people

Research the term “bi-polar”

Select one famous person ahead of time that you research and give students the opportunity to hear about, and perhaps guess for your opening activity

### Reflection

- ✓ Students are to write in their journals on their own unique traits, which will create some valuable reflection time. Also, through the parent-home connector there is more opportunity for reflection and growing self-awareness.

### Home Connection

Ask the parents if they know of anyone personally with a disability who is famous, or well known to them. Ask parent to identify the person by name and what they know of their fame and disability. Report to the class the following day.