Examples of Ableism in Society

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- People automatically assume incompetence based on another person's appearance or diagnosis. How does this manifest?
 - A person's opinion is dismissed because they are on the spectrum. A
 wheelchair user is moved without their permission. A couple must fight to
 maintain custody of their children because they have intellectual
 disabilities.
- Buildings or businesses are inaccessible to those with physical disabilities. How does this manifest?
 - Buildings will have steps, but no ramps or elevators. Buildings will have no accessible bathroom facilities (including no place to change adults who wear diapers). Store aisles are too narrow, or overcrowded with merchandise, for wheelchairs to maneuver through.
- People with disabilities are underrepresented, or misrepresented in society. How does this manifest?
 - T.V.'s or movies use people with disabilities as token characters.
 Hollywood casts abled actors to play disabled characters. News articles / segments portray people with disabilities as either victims to be pitied or superheroes (overcoming all odds).
- Disability is not mentioned, or seldom mentioned, in our curricula. How does this manifest?
 - o FDR's use of a wheelchair is but a footnote in our history textbooks. A classroom, which is full a books, will not have one book which features a disabled protagonist. Children's biographies of Thomas Edison do not mention Thomas Edison was deaf, or that he saw his deafness as a strength (as it helped him focus on his work).
- Current policies promote poverty in the disability community. How does this manifest?
 - Employers are legally allowed to pay people with disabilities below minimum wage. People with disabilities often have to rely on

- supplemental income. People with disabilities often have to choose between a good paying job or Medicaid coverage.
- People with disabilities are not granted full protection or justice under the law. How does this manifest?
 - Parents who kill their disabled children are acquitted. People with intellectual disabilities are 7 times more likely to become the victim of sexual assault. People with disabilities can be forcibly institutionalized.