



Neurodiversity 101

and how diverse projects can empower

Today We Will Talk About:

- The larger vision of LHP
- The Loud Hands Project's Neurodiversity 101 materials.
- Some previews of the site
- The potential of projects that use multiple mediums to communicate in
- The importance of embracing alternative mediums of communication

Loud Hands Project

"The Loud Hands Project is a structured, multi-faceted response by the Autistic community to the systematic disenfranchisement, bullying, and abuse experienced by autistic youth, young adults, and self advocates. Taking the form of a publishing effort by the Autistic Self Advocacy Network and spearheaded by [Julia Bascom](#), The Loud Hands Project consists of multiple prongs organized around the theme of what the Autistic community refers to as “having loud hands”—autism acceptance, neurodiversity, Autistic pride, community, and culture, disability rights and resistance, and resilience. We focus on cultivating resilience among autistic young people and empowering us in building communities and cultures of ability, resistance, and worth." - *From the Loud Hands Project Tumblr*

The Loud Hands Project is a *transmedia* project, which means we use multiple forms of content—written words, videos, and more.

This is not just because transmedia is good for distributing information to multiple groups of people. It is because people communicate through diverse media, and it is important to honor that.

Some mediums are more ignored, while others are given priority. This creates an imbalance in communication. By being transmedia, LHP can help work to correct that imbalance, and empower voices that aren't heard as often.

Current Projects

Currently, we are working on getting various aspects of our site ready to launch. Right now, that means we are working on:

- Community Conversations modules
- Disability and Autistic History archives
- Making sure that the Anthology publication goes smoothly
- Creating a Neurodiversity 101 concept map

Different people working on the project have different skills. Our team includes talents in graphic design, interactive web design, writing, cataloging, and collecting information.

Today, we will focus a little more on the Neurodiversity 101 concept mapping.

Neurodiversity 101

Each topic has specific areas that are covered:

- a one sentence description
- an expanded 1-2 paragraph description in plain English
- a list of related media/links
- a list of concrete examples
- “see also”; or, other topics in the map that are relevant.

Neurodiversity 101

The team of writers, catalogers, and information gatherers work together to make sure each topic has all of these aspects.

Some people also help edit the writing, so that it will be in fairly accessible language ("plain English").

In the end, an entry on the site might look something like this:

This page just has sample text right now. Later, the information that the teams put together will take its place.

Autism

What is autism?

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Another subhead

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Related media



Related concepts

- » [Neurodiversity](#)
- » [Social model of disability](#)
- » [Developmental disability](#)

Search or Browse



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[Interactive concept map »](#)

Writing Sample: "What is Self-Advocacy?"

Self-advocacy is advocacy done by a person who is a member of the group the advocacy is for.

Self-advocacy is advocacy done by a member of the group that the advocacy is for. Self-Advocacy around autism is done by Autistic people; Self-advocacy around intellectual disability done by individuals with intellectual disabilities; and so on. Having someone who is not a member of that group- such as a parent, professional, or caregiver- is not self advocacy.

Self-advocacy can be really big or really small. You might do self advocacy about basic things in your life, like communicating with a caregiver about what food, clothes, and activities you want. You might also want to do self-advocacy about big, national issues, like rules around employment or health care. It can be as simple as indicating that you don't want something, by whatever means you communicate, or as big as creating big projects with other people who have similar concerns or even testifying in a senate hearing.

Some of the Topics in LHP's Neurodiversity 101

Autism Acceptance

Autism

Autistic

Developmental Disability

Neurominority

Neurotypical

Disability

Ways of thinking about disability

Social Model

Diversity

Impairment

Difference

special education

Accommodations/supports

Disability Rights

Barriers

Accessibility

Ableism

Violence

Medical model

Eugenics

Institutionalization

Cure

Segregated

Indistinguishability

Language

Identity-first

Person-first

Topics continued . . .

Self-Advocacy

What is self-advocacy?

Activism

The self-advocacy

movement

Organizations

Neurodiversity

Movement

Autism Rights

Movement

Self-determination

Who can be a self-advocate?

Allies

Privilege

This is just a sample of some of the topics for the concept map. There are additional sub-topics that I left out.

We will eventually expand to include more terms that community members ask about.

Transmedia potential

As we mentioned earlier, transmedia has the potential to include a wider group of people.

We just went over a mainly textual- or words written down- project. There are other ways of contributing, though.

What other ways of communicating and contributing can you think of?

Transmedia as empowerment

As we all just showed, there are a lot of mediums that people communicate in.

Some are easier to understand without prior knowledge than others. Others are very difficult to understand, and might be ignored.

When we embrace that there are many different ways to communicate, we let ourselves "hear" what people think, feel, or want.

Transmedia as empowerment

Have you ever had an experience where you felt that what you were thinking, feeling, or wanting wasn't being understood?

Have you had an experience where you didn't expect to be understood, but someone did?

Transmedia as empowerment

Can you think of something that you do or use that makes communicating easier?

Why and how?

Transmedia as Empowerment

Communicating and being understood feels empowering.

Communicating in a way that is easier for you can also feel empowering. It can also make you feel more secure about what you are trying to accomplish.

Transmedia impacts more though!

When we accept other methods of communication, we are not just empowering.

We build connections, community, and even self-efficacy.

Having self-efficacy means that you believe that you can make and act on choices that impact your life.

Transmedia and meaningful self-advocacy

When a person feels empowered, they feel that they can be "heard". Sometimes it goes further and they feel they can get stuff done, which is even better!

When you feel these things, it can help you think about things that you might try to ignore the rest of the time. You might even be able to think of ways to help fix it, or make it better. **Examples?**

THANK YOU

If you want more information about the Loud Hands Project and the projects we are working on, you can email Julia at:

JBascom@autisticadvocacy.org

If you have more questions for me (Savannah) about the other parts of the presentation, my personal email is:

nicocoer@gmail.com