

# Connect-Ability

A newsletter on disabilities awareness prepared by and for students



NYSUT  
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## Looking for student writers, artists, poets, and photographers

Under NYSUT's leadership, middle school and high school students in New York State are publishing a newsletter called **Connect-Ability**. Its goal is to give students a voice in communicating with one another about disabilities and the many people affected by them. **Connect-Ability** is an annual publication that goes out to students across the state and may be viewed on line at [www.nysut.org/connect](http://www.nysut.org/connect).

The newsletter includes articles, essays, personal stories, short plays, poetry and art work. Each piece is chosen to help raise awareness. Learning more about disability will help foster greater understanding and acceptance among students with disability and students without disability. The newsletter hopes to promote more inclusive environments in schools, neighborhood and communities. Its name highlights its goal to focus on ability and help connect students.

**Connect-Ability** has a student editorial board that meets twice each year to review submissions and determine what will be included in each issue. Topics of interest in past issues have included assistive technology, tips for college, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), Asperger Syndrome, depression, Individualized Education Programs (IEP's), scoliosis, dysgraphia, narcolepsy, trichotillomania and cochlear implants. Some students have written about their own experiences with disabilities including auditory impairments, cerebral palsy, learning disabilities, mental retardation and obsessive compulsive disorder. Other students have shared the experiences of their siblings or classmates. Still others have researched a topic related to disability and written an article to share what they learned with others. Students who are artists have created cartoons, caricatures and drawings. There are many ways to communicate about disability.

If you know students with or without disabilities who might like to contribute to the next issue of **Connect-Ability**, please ask them to send original essays, articles, poems or art work to the address listed above or as an e-mail attachment to [cmchugh@nysutmail.org](mailto:cmchugh@nysutmail.org). They will receive a confirmation and a contact from our student editors. If students would like to serve on the editorial board, ask them to contact Catharine McHugh at the above e-mail or call her at 800-342-9810 to receive a packet of information. Please join us in encouraging your students to make **Connect-Ability** a publication that connects many students across NYS.