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The World Needs All Kinds of Minds: TED Talk Annotated Resource List

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TED Talk Selection

The TED talk that I chose was by Temple Grandin: "The world needs all kinds of minds." In the video, Temple describes her abilities and the way her brain works. She thinks in pictures, quite unlike the majority of people who think in words or phrases. She describes the different types of "thinkers," and why people on the autistic spectrum are needed in everyday life. "I see movies in my imagination and this helped me understand animals," is one quote from the TED talk that inspired me to research the differences between what we call the "normal brain" and the "autistic brain." Temple helps to convey the differences between her brain and the way she thinks to her audience. By giving us a glimpse of how an autistic mind works, we can easily see how this affects the technology, the structure, and the availability of materials that societies provide us. Without autistic minds, we would not live in the type of world we do today.

Having a five year old brother with autism, I find myself constantly wondering about how he sees the world. Is it similar or different to how I see it? The main topic TED talk addressed particularly was perspective. The way the mind thinks is an intricate design, and most autistic people have a physically different brain design. This affects the way they think, which is not at all a bad thing. It simply implies that rather than being more emotionally connected to people with normal brains, an autistic mind is particularly focused on specific categories. The overall message of the TED talk was how even though people with autism have a different physical mind structure, they have dramatically advanced our society as a whole. People tend to think of all the negative things that autism brings, but in reality it has given us specialists in every field we can name. Take Temple for example, she was able to change the way many animal industries run because she is particularly specialized with animals. She was able to understand concepts that no other person could see. Autism is not just a label, it is a much greater force, and I believe the TED talk helps to clarify this.

Annotated Resource List

Book Sources

Grandin, Temple. 1995. *Thinking in Pictures: and other reports from my life with autism*. New York: Doubleday.

This book is a valuable resource, because Temple Grandin delves deeper in to her way of thinking. By analyzing how her brain works, one can easily compare and contrast the differences between an autistic brain and a normal brain.

Montgomery, Sy. 2012. *Temple Grandin: how the girl who loved cows embraced autism and changed the world*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Even though the other book source is also about Temple Grandin, by comparing the two books, one is able to see the different aspects of autism, seventeen years apart. It is valuable to see the changes and progression of how autism is viewed, and also to see how Temple has changed in the seventeen year difference. Autism was thought of quite differently in 1995 compared to how it is viewed today, therefore the information is critical in finding the differences that we saw then and how much we have figured out about autism within that time period.

Internet Sources

Schultz, Robert. 2004. "Inside Autism: Windows to the Brain." Last modified September 16, 2013, <http://whyfiles.org/209autism/4.html>.

This site provides information about the difference in emotional receptors in the brain of an autistic child and a non-autistic child. It is important to physically see the differences in the brain make up of each, because a scientist may then validate why it is autistic people think differently. The site also helps to clarify how many autistic individuals see emotion through facial features differently.

Hughes, Virginia. 2012. "Researchers Reveal First Brain Study of Temple Grandin." Last modified September 15, 2013, <http://sfari.org/news-and-opinion/conference-news/2012/society-for-neuroscience-2012/researchers-reveal-first-brain-study-of-temple-grandin>.

This site provides updated information on brain scans. This particular site uses Temple Grandin, and shows a more realistic and detailed picture of the brain compared to that of the neuroscans of 2004 that were performed on children. This site offers more updated information than most of the other sources, and is very valuable for research.

Scholarly Journal

Zielinski, Brandon; Froehlich, Alyson; Prigge, Molly; Nielsen, Jared, Cooperrider, Jason; Cariello, Annahir; Alexander, Andrew... 2012. "scMRI Reveals Large-Scale Brain Network Abnormalities in Autism." Harvard University Library.

Again, any and all information that is updated on brain scans (that is a valid source) would be vital when researching this type of topic. Therefore this article from the graduates of Harvard would be important in finding just what type of neurological changes there are in the autistic brain. Even though they are strictly researching the abnormalities in autism, one is able to apply what is "normal" versus what the researchers found to be abnormal.

Reference Source

Rodier, Patricia. 2008. *The World Book Encyclopedia*. Chicago: a Scott Fetzer Company.

This reference would be a great way for someone with no connection to autism to literally look up a textbook definition. What actually defines autism? This source lists the relative symptoms, causes and treatments for autism. It is a dynamic reference to use because it is a simple overview to a complex and differentiated disorder. It can be hard to grasp at times that one child with autism may never speak, and another may use short phrases. By applying this reference with the other sources, it helps to clarify that all children and all brains are different, but particularly the structure of the autistic brain is more complex.