

# Empowerment, Advocacy, and Leadership Activity 2

## Role of the Dice

### Discovering the Importance of Advocacy

#### Participant Instructions

Below you will find a scenario of a person with a disability who is facing a particular barrier. Your group will be split into two teams (one in support of the patient and his or her wishes, the other supporting the medical perspective).

You and your team must create an argument for your side of the debate, which you will present to the opposing side. You must remain in character throughout the debate.

#### Criteria

You will present your side of the argument within 3-5 minutes

Be persuasive and logical

Target your presentation for the audience in your scenario (so if it says that you are advocating for accessible housing to your county housing council, then prepare to speak to a council)

Don't forget to stay in character

## Role 1

Lexie is three-years-old and was born with a genetic abnormality in which the bones in her lower legs did not develop properly. She currently uses a wheelchair for mobility but has voiced her desire to someday walk. Walking would however require the use of prosthetics and below the knee amputations. Her doctors disagree with this procedure and have explained that the risk of surgery does not outweigh the benefit.

## Role 2

CJ is a 18 year-old college student with cerebral palsy. He requires full time care attendants to maintain his independence and live on campus. CJ believes that living on campus is a vital part of growing up and becoming more independent, however the state will not approve the proper amount of attendant hours CJ needs in order to live on his own. CJ has appealed the decision and has been told that he could just live at home with the current amount of hours for care attendants and obtain the same education.

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IEP

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### Role 3

David is a youth that has Muscular Dystrophy and uses a wheelchair for mobility. For the past 14 years the Muscular Dystrophy Association has provided David with a wheelchair at no cost and he is now able to move around independently. On Labor Day weekend David watched the Jerry Lewis telethon for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and realized how demeaning the telethon is and begins to think about the ways that people with disabilities are portrayed on the show. David decides to talk to the MDA board about the show's use of promoting pity in order to raise vital funds for research and assistive devices.

### Role 4

James is two and was born deaf. His doctor and early education specialists have suggested that James get cochlear implants, however his parents have family members who are also deaf and they believe that being deaf is just a part of who he is.

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## Role of the Dice

Discovering the Importance  
of Self-Advocacy

### Instructions for Participants

Below you will find a scenario of a person with a disability who is facing a particular barrier. You and your team must create a skit demonstrating how the youth could **CORRECTLY** or **INCORRECTLY** advocate for his or her needs. You must remain in character throughout the debate.

### Directions

- Describe what good and bad advocacy is - 3 minutes
  - Make two lists that describe the right way to advocate and the wrong way to advocate
- Prepare your skit- 5 minutes
  - Decide who each team member is going to play (the youth, parent, teacher, doctor, etc)
  - Use the "Situation" to determine what you are going to say
- Present your skit to the group- 3-5 minutes per group
  - You will present your skit for 3-5 minutes
  - Don't forget to stay in character

Make sure to read the "Role" to determine whether you are supposed to advocate correctly or incorrectly

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## It's Your Role

Please make up a skit that is no more than 3-5 minutes long that shows how to advocate correctly.

Place: School

Situation: Your IEP says that you have the right to a copy of teacher notes.

Role: Correctly advocate

## It's Your Role

Please make up a skit that is no more than 3-5 minutes long that shows how to advocate correctly.

Place: Mall

Situation: You are at the mall with a friend and you are unable to read the price tags of the shoes.

Role: Incorrectly advocate

## It's Your Role

Please make up a skit that is no more than 3-5 minutes long that shows how to advocate correctly.

Place: Work

Situation: You are at work and you cannot reach a book on the bookshelf.

Role: Correctly advocate

## It's Your Role

Please make up a skit that is no more than 3-5 minutes long that shows how to advocate correctly.

Place: Graduation

Situation: You are at graduation practice and you cannot get on stage.

Role: Incorrectly advocate

## It's Your Role

Please make up a skit that is no more than 3-5 minutes long that shows how to advocate correctly.

Place: Football Game

Situation: You are at a football game and someone is trying to help you with something you can do yourself.

Role: Correctly advocate

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