

Student Disability Services

Sarah Bonawitz

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Student Disability Services (SDS) is part of Cornell Health, Student & Campus Life

Designated office at CU for determining eligibility for disability services and accommodations (for students) and then arranging for implementation

Goal: to ensure disabled students have equal access to their education

5,443 students currently registered with SDS

Overview of Disabilities Reported

- Mobility and Physical Disabilities
- Learning Disabilities
- Chronic Health/Medical Conditions
- Mental Health Conditions
- Autism Spectrum
- Hearing Disabilities
- Visual Disabilities
- Traumatic Brain Injuries
- Temporary

What to Expect When Working with SDS

- Process is student-initiated
 - Student submits self-disclosure
 - You can always talk with SDS first if you're not sure about submitting
 - Documentation is NOT primary form of information
- Engage in an interactive process with SDS staff to determine reasonable accommodations
 - May be through email communication, meetings, or a mix of the two
 - SDS may connect with faculty or campus partners
 - NOTE: We don't disclose disability or diagnosis
- Develop self-advocacy skills through process
 - Learn how to use accommodations effectively for you
 - Notify SDS when there is a problem regarding your accommodations or access

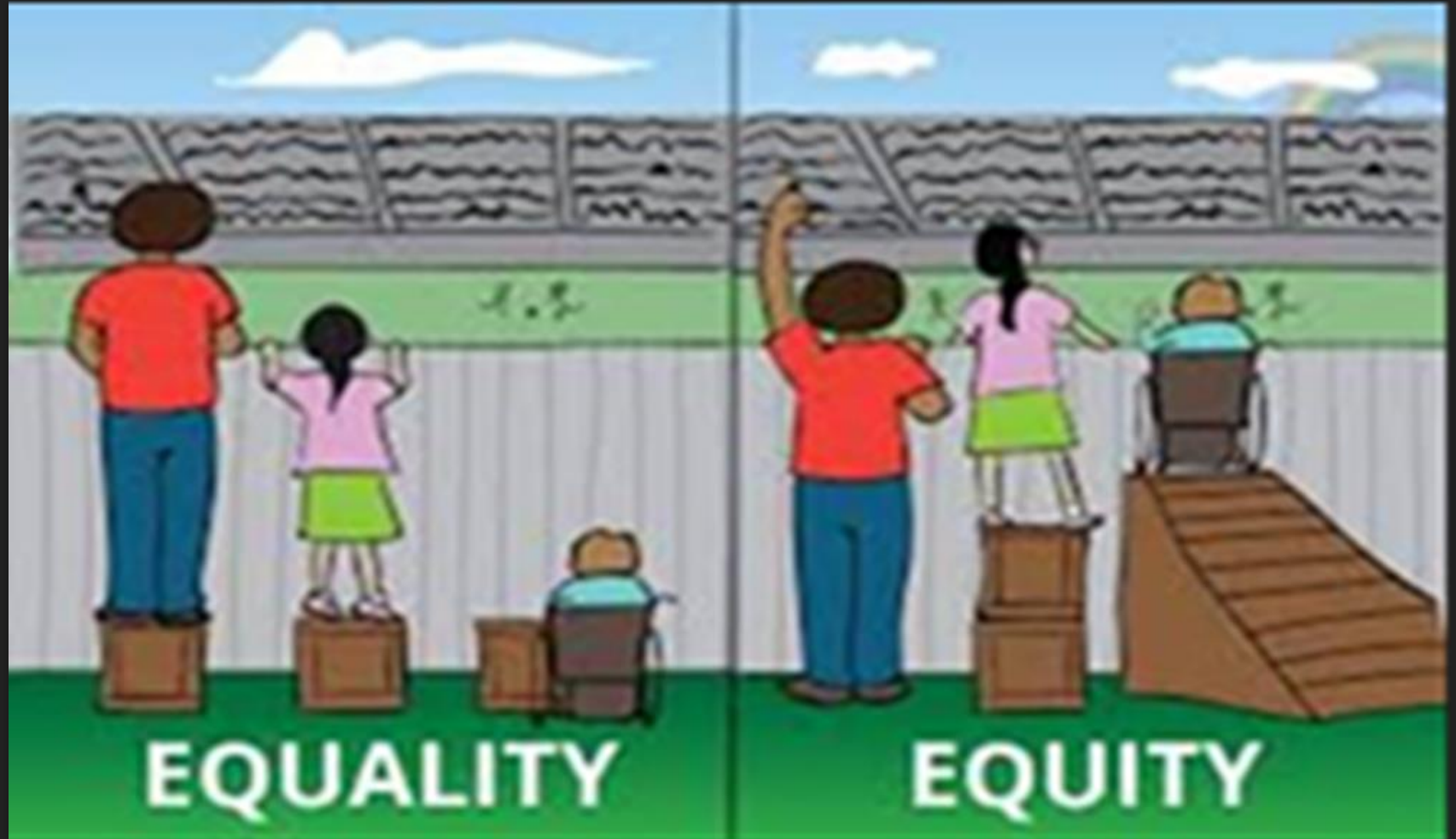
ASSESS THE ACCESS, Not Diagnosis

- Focus on student experience
 - Impact of disability – what's happening for the student?
 - Considering and affirming all aspects of a student's identity
 - Documentation is supplemental, not primary
- University Environment
 - Identify and minimize barriers that are University-imposed
 - Consider the semester, the types of classes or academic environments
- No two students' experiences are the same
- Accommodations are tools – not always automatic fixes

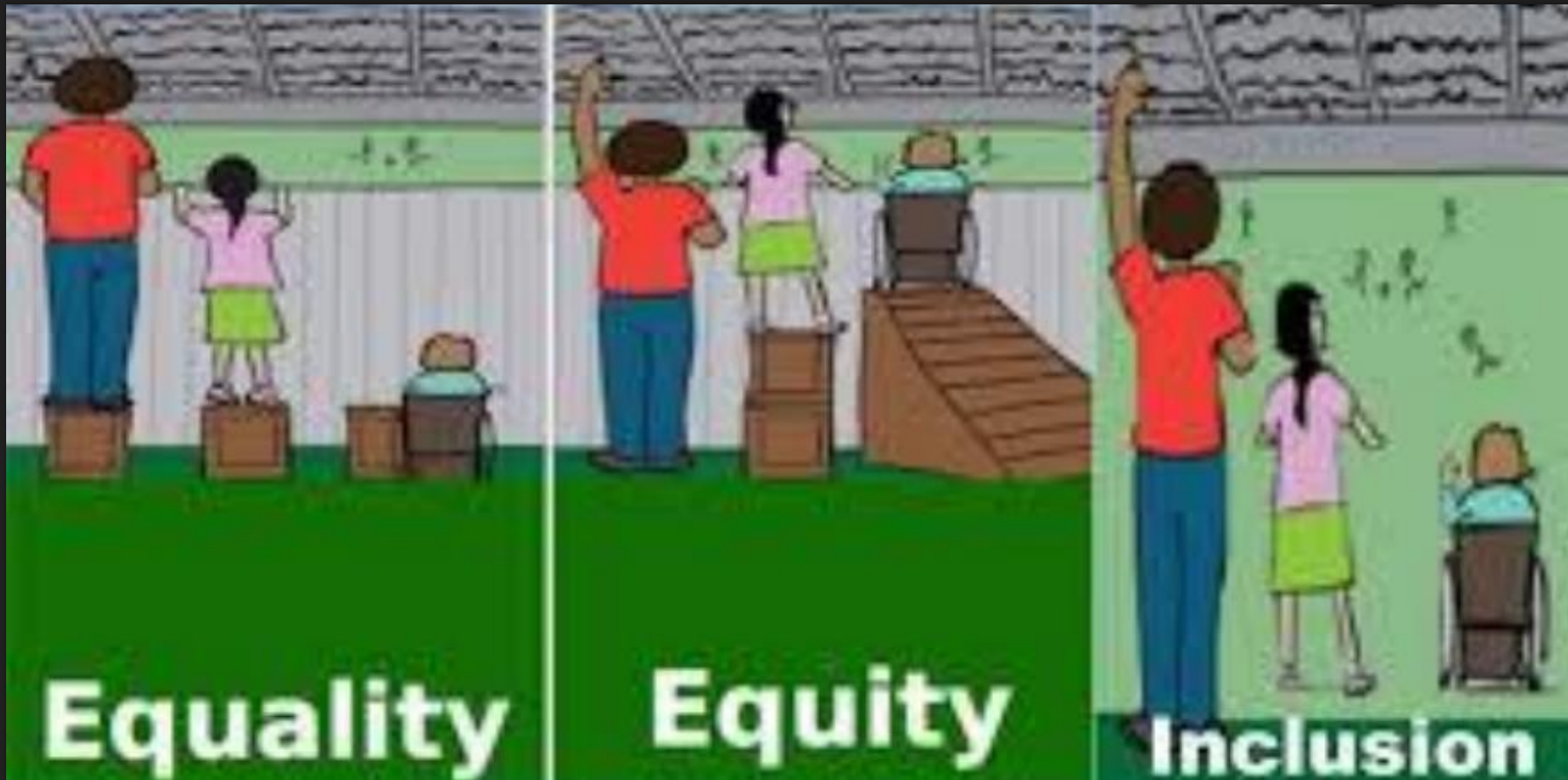
SDS Website & Self-Disclosure Form



Which image represents the accommodations process?



What SDS Strives For:



Questions or Reflections?

Student Disability Services

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[Facebook.com/CornellSDS](https://www.facebook.com/CornellSDS)

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