

# Reporting on Disability: A Checklist

## Content

- Is disability relevant to your specific story? If disability is not central to the story, what is the story actually about?
- Does your story avoid condescending stereotypes, such as *inspirational*, *special* and *courageous*?
- Have you interviewed knowledgeable people with disabilities for context? Have you quoted them, in addition to experts or caregivers? Have you asked your sources if they want to be identified as having a disability and, if so, how?
- Have you done enough research/reporting about disability issues to ensure the story is accurate, factual and complete?
- Are images appropriate and relevant to the story you're telling?

## Word Usage

- Did you ask the subject of your story how he or she wants his/her disability described?
- Have you used precise medical terminology and explained the terms where necessary?
- Have you avoided labels like the blind or the disabled that lump people into generic groups?
- Are you aware that the word special often implies separate (special buses for the disabled; special bathrooms)?
- Have you consulted the NCDJ guide for disability-related terms and phrases?

## Accessibility

- Are images tagged to make the story more accessible online? Are descriptions detailed?
- Do the captions accompanying videos make sense?
- Are documents available in readable PDF or Word documents?
- Is your social media content accessible through services such as tagging images, text sizing, voice enabled navigation, high color contrast and voice readers?