

## **New College's Step-Up Programme: Essay Competition 2023**

Theme: Disability

Write an essay of no more than 1,500 words that addresses one of the following questions:

1. The Equality Act (2010) states that there is a duty to make reasonable adjustments if you are placed at a substantial disadvantage because of your disability. At what point does an adjustment become unreasonable?
2. Do disabled people have to view themselves as disabled?
3. 'Learning disabilities have no cure'. Discuss.
4. 'Disabled characters in fiction are predominantly used as a stepping stone for the main character's development'. Discuss.
5. Should we ever forgive the past treatment of disabled people in the UK?
6. How can the lives of disabled people be improved in modern British society?
7. Are there any economic benefits to being disabled?
8. Can a disability ever be considered an advantage within a non-disabled population?

You will be assessed upon:

1. Your strength of argument
2. Your essay's structure
3. Your command of English, including the use of technical vocabulary

References will not be graded, but we do encourage you to read widely.

Please email your essay as a Word or PDF document to [stepup@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:stepup@new.ox.ac.uk) with the subject line 'Essay Competition'. Please include your name and school in your email. There will be a 1<sup>st</sup> place prize of £250, as well as a runner up prize of £100. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday May 31<sup>st</sup> 2023.

Good luck!