

**Suggestions for Writing an Op-Ed around EKS Day and the 50th Anniversary of the Saturday Evening Post Article by Mrs. Shriver**

Fifty years ago, Eunice Kennedy Shriver wrote an article for the *Saturday Evening Post* called [“Hope for Retarded Children.”](http://www.eunicekennedyshriver.org/articles/saturday_evening_post/) Fifty years later, we are still facing the injustice, stigma, discrimination, abuse and marginalization affecting people with intellectual disabilities.

As we near EKS Day and the 50th anniversary of this article, we are encouraging programs to write op-eds to submit to local publications discussing the legacy of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the impact of Special Olympics and the issues presented in the *Saturday Evening Post* article that are still being faced by people with intellectual disabilities today. To aid in this, we have put together a one-pager that explains how to write an op-ed. Below you will find some topics and talking points that can be used as a guide for writing the piece.

* Every person should be able to reach their full potential and all members of society should embrace and encourage this.
* Every person has value and gifts. {You can humanize this by telling a story about a local athlete.}
* We should be able to guarantee that every person is free of abuse, marginalization, victimization and discrimination.
* Efforts to promote education and health should include *all* people.
* 50 years after Mrs. Shriver wrote the *Saturday Evening Post* article, we are still fighting to rid the world of stigmas and the misconception that intellectual disability renders life hopeless.