

Video and Discussion Guide



American
Spaces

Athletes without Limits

Themes Covered: Disabilities Inclusion; Sports Diplomacy; Women's Empowerment



English Conversation Club ~ 60 minutes

The **four video clips** below are excerpted from a U.S. Department of State program produced on March 6, 2018. The program features three U.S. female Paralympians who talk about their experiences as athletes with disabilities:

- **Ann Cody**, U.S. Special Advisor on International Disability Rights (Sport: Wheelchair Basketball and Athletics)
- **Anjali Forber-Pratt**, Professor at Vanderbilt University (Sport: Wheelchair Racing; Track and Field)
- **Scout Bassett**, University student at University of California, Los Angeles (Sport: Track and Field)

Serving as the moderator, Ann Cody draws out the inspirational stories from the other two Paralympians, including how they became Paralympians and what challenges they needed to overcome.

- **Video 1:** *Learning about the Paralympics* [1 min 48 sec; published by IIP Interactive; March 14, 2018]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xH2KHPJQ0Zs&index=4&t=8s&list=PLEWYDE6Ehtrk-5fAyty9X_NlZrPHssbJl
- **Video 2:** *Challenges Faced Taking Part in Sports* [2 min 6 sec; published by IIP Interactive; March 12, 2018]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50NVIHdx9zE&index=3&t=0s&list=PLEWYDE6Ehtrk-5fAyty9X_NlZrPHssbJl
- **Video 3:** *Legal Support for Disability Rights* [1 min 24 sec; published by IIP Interactive; March 12, 2018]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PPLI7-KSY4g&index=2&t=0s&list=PLEWYDE6Ehtrk-5fAyty9X_NlZrPHssbJl
- **Video 4:** *Gender in Sports* [~2 minutes; published by IIP Interactive; March 12, 2018]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eul5km18g-A&index=5&t=50s&list=PLEWYDE6Ehtrk-5fAyty9X_NlZrPHssbJl

Additional Resources

- **Share America Article** – *Athletes prove disabilities are no bar to sports*
<https://share.america.gov/athletes-prove-disabilities-are-no-bar-to-sports/>
- **Share America Article** – *Top Shots: Pyeongchang Paralympics*
<https://share.america.gov/top-shots-pyeongchang-paralympics/>

English Conversation Club – Discussion Questions

Video 1: Learning about the Paralympics

1. How did Anjali Forber-Pratt learn about the Paralympics? What was the significance of living where she did in Massachusetts?
2. What would Ms. Forber-Pratt's grandmother do for her when she was a little girl?

Video 2: Challenges Faced Taking Part in Sports

1. What challenges did Anjali Forber-Pratt and Scout Bassett face in accessing sports?
2. What creative ways did Ms. Forber-Pratt use to overcome her transportation barriers?
3. How did both women overcome their funding barriers?

Video 3: Legal Support for Disability Rights

1. What does Ms. Forber-Pratt recommend for lawyers who want to help athletes with disabilities?
2. What did she need to fight for as a student in the United States?

Video 4: Gender in Sports

1. What are some challenges Ms. Bassett mentions regarding women's participation in sports?
2. Ms. Bassett talks about some of the benefits for women participating in sports – what are they?
3. What other challenge does she mention as a factor in sports participation?

General:

1. What are the Paralympics? Have athletes in your country participated in the Paralympics?
2. How are the disabled people in your communities treated? Do they have equal access to different opportunities and services?
3. These women were able to dream big and achieve what may have initially seemed impossible. Have you been able to achieve something you once thought impossible? What was it and how did you do it?

Additional Background/Context:

Paralympics or Paralympic Games

The **Paralympics** is the largest sporting competition for athletes with disabilities worldwide. According to the official website of the Paralympic Movement (<https://www.paralympic.org>), the main disability categories are: amputee, cerebral palsy, intellectual impairment, visually impaired, spinal injuries and Les Autres (French for "the others," a category that includes conditions not previously mentioned).

There are Winter and Summer Paralympic Games, which are usually held immediately following the respective Olympic Games. Recent and upcoming Paralympic Games include:

- 2016 Summer Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2018 Winter Paralympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea
- 2020 Summer Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan
- 2022 Winter Paralympic Games in Beijing, China

Additional Background/Context (continued)

Legal Protections for Individuals with Disabilities in the United States

Information from ADA National Network website: <https://adata.org/>

The **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990** is a **civil rights law** that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The purpose of the law is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. The ADA is divided into five titles (or sections) that relate to different areas of public life.

- **Title I: Equal Employment Opportunities** must be provided for individuals with disabilities, and covered employers must provide reasonable accommodations to qualified applicants or employees.
- **Title II: State and Local Government** and public entities, such as schools and public transportation, must not discriminate and should meet requirements for ensuring access (for example, wheelchairs in public transportation).
- **Title III – Public Accommodations** such as hotels, restaurants, or recreation centers must not discriminate (for example, all new construction must be compliant with ADA guidelines).
- **Title IV – Telecommunications** companies in the U.S. should take steps to ensure functionally equivalent services for consumers with disabilities.
- **Title V – Miscellaneous Provisions** including a variety of provisions relating to the ADA as a whole, including its relationship to other laws, prohibition against retaliation, etc.

Video Links

The playlist for all of the videos may be found on Youtube and Vimeo:

- https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEWYDE6Ehtrk-5fAyty9X_NlZrPHssbJl
- <https://vimeopro.com/iipinteractive/athletes-without-limits>

Downloadable Posters

Posters related to the Paralympics and Winter Olympics may be found here:

- <https://americanspaces.state.gov/home/downloadable-posters/>
- <https://app.box.com/s/ps461snoam8biatgmukprvisfyjdrq9d>