

Andy Slater  
"Ignorance, Discrimination, and Hostility"  
Research Questions  
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Hello,

I am conducting research for an essay I am writing about visually impaired people and the way they respond to discrimination. I have RP and legally blind. I am very mobile and walk with a cane . For whatever reason people accuse me of "faking" my disability. I am trying to figure out why anyone would think such a thing and why they feel compelled to "call me out" on it.

I personally don't know anyone who has endured this this type of abuse on the level that I have and that is why I am asking these questions. I would like to know if other visually impaired people have similar experiences or if I am in this alone. Hopefully, the data I collect will shed some light on this problem and lead to an understanding of why some people are assholes.

Thank you for your participation and sharing these personal experiences with me.

1. What is your visual impairment?
2. Do you use a cane, a guide dog, or neither?
3. Do you often travel by yourself?
4. Have you ever been accused of 'faking' your disability? i.e. a jerk at a party says something like, "You're not really blind.", in an attempt to catch you in some kind of performance art prank. Can you recall a situation when this occurred?
5. Other than, "How many fingers am I holding up?" are there any other ways in which people have tested your vision just to make sure you're "really blind"?
6. Have you ever felt threatened or scared by any of these encounters? If so, how did you react?
7. Have any of these encounters turned violent? If so, how did you react?
8. What are the reactions of any bystanders,? (friends, family, strangers)
9. Have you prepared a speech or one-liner come back for these encounters? Has your response ever upset anyone? Has your response ever changed that person's mind?

10. Have you felt empowered by telling someone off in these situations? Do you choose not to say anything at all and just walk away?
11. Are there similarities in each of these experiences? (i.e. location, dialog, outcome)
12. Are there trends in gender or race of those who have confronted you?
13. What is your geographic location? Do you live in a small town, a large city, or a rural area?
14. How often would you say these encounters happen?
15. Do you know anyone else who has been in this situation?
16. Have you concluded that the people who question the validity of your disability are doing so to aggravate you or just curious about your impairment?
17. Would you consider this mistreatment to be a form of discrimination?
18. As an adult, do you find any similarities between this form of harassment and the teasing or bullying you received as a visually impaired child/teen?
19. Has this harassment ever kept you from being social?
20. Would you like to share any of these experiences in detail?

If you would like to add any anecdotes or experience I would be more than happy to hear it.

If you would like to address any other issues that were not taken into consideration by the survey feel free to share.

I appreciate your participation and thank you for supporting my research.

Andy Slater  
203.494.4556  
[aslater@saic.edu](mailto:aslater@saic.edu)  
[www.thisisandyslater.com](http://www.thisisandyslater.com)