

Joni Eareckson Tada on Ableism

- 1. **Who** is Joni Eareckson Tada and what are her key ideas on ableism?
- 2. **How** do Joni Eareckson Tada's key ideas on ableism work?
- 3. **Why** are Joni Eareckson Tada's key ideas on ableism important?

1. **Who** is Joni Eareckson Tada and what are her key ideas on ableism?

Joni Eareckson Tada (b. 1949) is an American disability rights advocate, author, and evangelical Christian. In 1967, she suffered a horrific diving accident that left her paralysed from the shoulders down. She spent several years undergoing physical therapy and occupational therapy, during which she learned how to draw and paint by mouth. In 1974, Barbara Walters interviewed her on The Today Show, covering her art, disability, and Christian faith; this appearance sparked considerable interest in her story. Make a note about who she is and what she has done.

Joni Eareckson Tada (b. 1949)

Joni Eareckson Tada introduced several key ideas about ableism in her book, Joni: An Unforgettable Story. Make a note about three of her key ideas.

Key Ideas of Joni Eareckson Tada on Ableism

1	
2	
3	

2. **How** do Joni Eareckson Tada's key ideas on ableism work?

Joni Eareckson Tada's key ideas form a strong argument against ableism in all its forms. However, it is not presented as an academic thesis; instead, it is presented as an autobiographical account of her lived experience. In brief, her key ideas implicitly inspire improved treatment of the disabled. Explain how each key idea works.

How the Key Ideas of Joni Eareckson Tada on Ableism Work		
Ableism is part of mainstream culture in most societies.	Ableism is exacerbated by its ability to hide in plain sight.	Ableism is based on incorrect assumptions about quality of life.

3. **Why** are Joni Eareckson Tada's key ideas on ableism important?

The key ideas of Joni Eareckson Tada are important for three reasons in particular. Make a note about why her key ideas are important.

Why the Key Ideas of Joni Eareckson Tada on Ableism Are Important	
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2	
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