

(Read free) Illusions of Equality

Illusions of Equality

Robert Buchanan

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*

 Download

 Read Online

#3594414 in Books Gallaudet Univ Pr 2000-02-29Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.36 x .93 x 6.421, 1.28 #File Name: 156368084X214 pages | File size: 32.Mb

Robert Buchanan : Illusions of Equality before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Illusions of Equality:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Informative and engrossingBy A CustomerI found this book to be helpful as it provided much new information in areas that have not been fully explored in recent works. Buchanan showed that Deaf adults actively defended American Sign Language during the very decades (1900-1950) when "Oralism" was the official policy in most schools. He also shows that this tradition of self-activity extended into employment where Deaf adults worked individually and collectively to challenge discriminatory employers many decades before the Americans with Disabilities Act. Finally, Illusions is helpful as it provides an honest and empathic portrait of the Deaf Community that considers frailties and divisions as well as its extraordinary history of determined self-activity.5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Filling the GapsBy A CustomerRobert Buchanan's book 'Illusions of Equality' fills a gap long overlooked in activist literature. Meticulously researched and well written, Buchanan's book details the plight of deaf Americans in trying to find equal opportunity in employment during the heyday of American industrialization. With this book, Buchanan becomes one of the premier voices amongst activist/historians.

From the mid-1850s to the post-World War II era, Deaf Americans typically sought to deemphasize their identity as sign language users to be integrated better into the workforce. But in his absorbing book Illusions of Equality, Robert

Buchanan shows that events during this period would thwart these efforts. The residential schools for deaf students in the 19th century stressed the use of American Sign Language while also recognizing the value of learning English. But the success of this system was disrupted by the rise of oralism, with its commitment to teaching deaf children speech and its ban of sign language. Buchanan depicts the consequences in sobering terms: most deaf students left school with limited educations and abilities that qualified them only for marginal jobs. He also describes the Deaf community's male hierarchy insistence through the end of World War II on individual responsibility, tactics that continually failed to earn job security for deaf workers. *Illusions of Equality* is an original, edifying work that will be appreciated for years to come.

Illusions of Equality is important for opening up a new line of historical inquiry on a neglected topic.