
EASY-READ SUMMARY

Against Cure and Toward Access in Musical Engagement

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When I was a child, I had occupational therapy.

I live in the United States and got therapy there.

Occupational therapy helps people do things for themselves at home or school.

I had occupational therapy because some of my disabilities affect my muscles and eyes.

Part of occupational therapy for me was listening to music.

The therapist wanted the music to change the way my eyes and muscles worked.

Occupational therapy with music was the most fun therapy I went through.

But the therapist decided what my goals should be.

She wanted my eyes and muscles to work how a nondisabled person's eyes and muscles work.

She wanted to cure my disabilities.

If she could not cure them, she wanted to get as close as she could to curing them.

Now that I am an adult, I have problems with that.

I use work by Robert Gross and Emily Elaine Williams to help me explain why I have problems with the therapist wanting to cure me.

Robert Gross is a music therapist who writes about how music therapy could be better.

He thinks music therapy could be better if the therapist did not see disability as a problem or try to cure the patient.

Making music together could be the goal of music therapy.

Emily Elaine Williams is a scholar and a musician who has a hearing impairment.

She thinks that if musicians supported each other, disabled musicians could join in without having to try to be less disabled.

I also point out how many autistic and other disabled people do not have much time for fun.

A lot of what nondisabled people get to do for fun becomes therapy when disabled people do it.

My paper is about how disabled people should get to say what their goals are.

They should get to use music how they want, not how therapists want.

Disabled people using music how they want can make life more accessible for them.

I have a playlist in my paper.

A playlist is a list of songs in a certain order with a certain topic.

My playlist is about how I use music to make my life more accessible.

I work with my disabilities instead of wanting to cure them.

Music is very important to me.

Music helps me understand and tell others about my feelings.

It helps me express things I cannot always say.

It helps me make my sensory issues less painful.

In my paper, I talk about how music is a tool that helps me be comfortable and do things that are important to me.

Music is an access tool for my brain the same way my wheelchair is an access tool for my body.

I do not use music to become less disabled.

I want my readers to think about how disabled people use music.

Disabled people use music in ways that we want to.

We do not need to be cured.