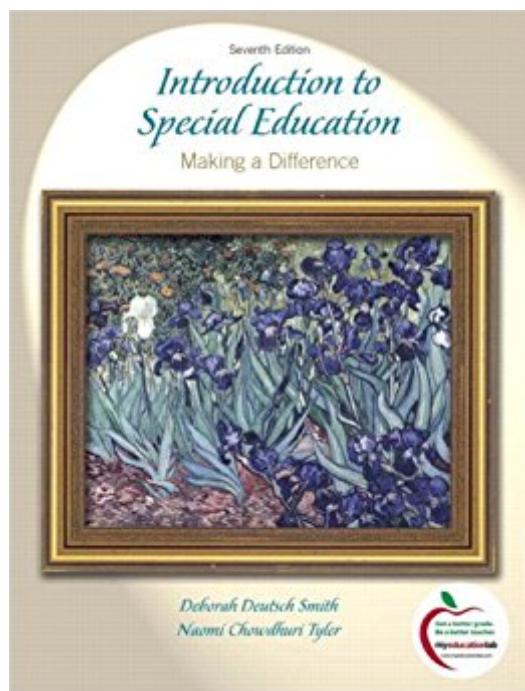


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# Introduction To Special Education: Making A Difference (7th Edition)



## **Synopsis**

The seventh edition of *Introduction to Special Education; Making a Difference*, reflects a vision of what all schools should provide to students with special needs: schooling that is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of individuals with special needs and their families. When educators use proven and best practices, the end-result will be an accountable and responsive education system where every student succeeds. Â Â Â Â

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The seventh edition of "Introduction to Special Education; Making a Difference," reflects a vision of what all schools should provide to students with special needs: schooling that is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of individuals with special needs and their families. When educators use proven and best practices, the end-result will be an accountable and responsive education system where every student succeeds.

This book is reasonably informative about the subject matter, and if the subject is one that is not incredibly interesting but is instead mostly a repetitive restatement of the obvious, (children with various disabilities are still entitled to a Free And Public Education in the Least Restrictive Environment Possible)that isn't entirely the fault of the book. The book does give a reasonably good, detailed look at many different types of disabilities, the issues related to each, and some tips on what sort of adjustments teachers of students with those disabilities might have to make. The problem is, the book is atrociously copyedited and proofread; one would think that a book that costs

what a college textbook costs could have been afforded a proofreader. One would also think that by the seventh edition, most of these errors would have been caught and corrected. But, apparently, one would be wrong, so we get such errors as "Social justice is an illusive concept..." (rather than "elusive"), and "One judge of every society is how it treats its citizens, all of them, despite being viewed as different on some perceived dimension." (As it's written, "despite being viewed as different" is modifying "one judge", rather than "its citizens", and "on some perceived dimension" should probably read "in some perceived dimension" or "on some perceived continuum." In any case, the sentence is a syntactical mess.) Both of these errors appeared on the first full page of the book, page 4, and page five had "However, perspectives or orientations about individuals also guide people's thinking." ("Perspectives about individuals" might, by some stretch, be a coherent thought; "orientations about individuals" makes no sense whatsoever.) Page seven has one sentence with two egregious errors, a double negative AND a missing word: "So, if supporting services were available to help every individual when problems occur, then no individual would not be negatively treated and would be viewed successful." ("...no individual would be negatively treated and would be viewed AS successful.") Page 16 has the word "not" when, as far as I can tell, the intended word was "to": "The impact of ADA has been great, with accomodations and greater access not part of American life." Page 18 has a relatively minor quibble; in the inset caption to the picture, it says "The benefits are many when everyone can clearly hear the teacher's instructions, can focus better on learning, and doesn't have to strain to hear..." If we break those clauses down, we are left with "...when everyone doesn't have to strain to hear...". It seems to me that it would be better to separate that clause out from the others, and instead of stretching parallel construction, to have said, "and no one has to strain...". After all, it is generally true that not EVERYONE has to strain to hear, but it's still a problem if ANYONE has to strain. Page 23 has a use of the word "surmount" when "mount" was intended, ("...educational opportunites are missed and feelings of exclusion surmount") as well as "in-creased" when "increased" was intended, and "being accessible" when "accessibility" was intended ("So being accessible to an appropriate education ...is important.") The entire first chapter is like this; after that, the book settles down a bit and generally only has one or two errors of this sort per chapter, which is still FAR too frequent for a scholarly textbook, and wouldn't even be acceptable in a mass-market paperback, but is, at least, an improvement. All in all, though, the sloppiness is such that I can't possibly rate this book higher than two stars, and in fact it's far closer to a one-star review than it is to a three-star, in spite of containing a fair amount of potentially useful information.

I am a struggling college student (again) and I buy used textbooks to save money and go green. I cannot emphasize enough how much I HATE getting a textbook that is already highlighted!!!! My eye is automatically drawn to what you thought was important. It makes reading and processing on your own very difficult (at least for me). And because I know how much of a hinderance this is, I will likely NOT resell the book. At the VERY LEAST you should indicate in the product description that the book is highlighted - maybe someone out there might actually like it and people like me would be aware before receiving it!

For the money I paid for it, it is poorly written and even more poorly edited. One page cut off at the bottom of the page and when I turned the page, I was in the middle of a new completely unrelated paragraph. This is only one of the most glaring errors in publication. If you are going to charge this much for a book, pay an editor to do a thorough job. It burns my biscuits to see books on education with spelling errors, syntax errors, and poor sentence construction. Although the information is at times enlightening, it is highly repetitive, with every chapter simply restating the one before in somewhat slightly different language. If this book was not required reading for the course that I am taking, I would never have chosen it as a "go to" text for Special Education. And don't get me started on the overly priced "online" portion of the package.

I'm in single subject teacher credential program and plan to teach foreign language; this book is required for the Special Education class. I'm taking this course online. At first I thought this Special Education course was just to fulfill the requirement of the credential, there's not much to do with my teaching Mandarin. However, my eyes and mind are opened by reading the first five chapters so far. This book is very detailed and informative. It's especially good if you're taking the course online because you get pretty much everything in the book. When I observed a Special Education classroom setting in a high school recently, the special ed teacher shared a lot of her experience with me which did match the textbook description. Furthermore, many resource links provide great resources. I spend time browsing through the recommended websites of the book and get a lot of information and ideas. For example, I just subscribe to "Teaching Tolerance" from SPLC (Southern Poverty Law Center) - I believe that if educators embed "tolerance" in curriculum, it will be a better world; every child (no matter with or without any kind of disability) will learn to respect others. This is the free companion website of this book: [...] I'm not saying this book is perfect (some writings are too detail and repetitive), but it does provide readers clear information on both overall special ed and specific info on students with different disabilities in public school education today.

I read this text cover to cover, but all I can say is that it's just... 'alright'. It is not phenomenal by any means, especially for the price. I think the information was good and solid for the most part. However, the organization is horrible. The chapters are not in any order that makes sense. Additionally, the chapters rarely reference what you have learned in previous chapters, which makes each chapter seem meaningless and lost in the bigger picture. This text is very confused. Besides the organization, I found it very uninteresting. I know it is a textbook, but it is not engaging whatsoever. I would often find myself reading a few pages, closing the text, and not remembering a single thing. It's your average old school text that just pours information on you with no way of helping you absorb it or remember it. There are far better texts out there. In sum, it is so-so. It is a good introductory text to special education. However, I think it is mediocre at best.

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