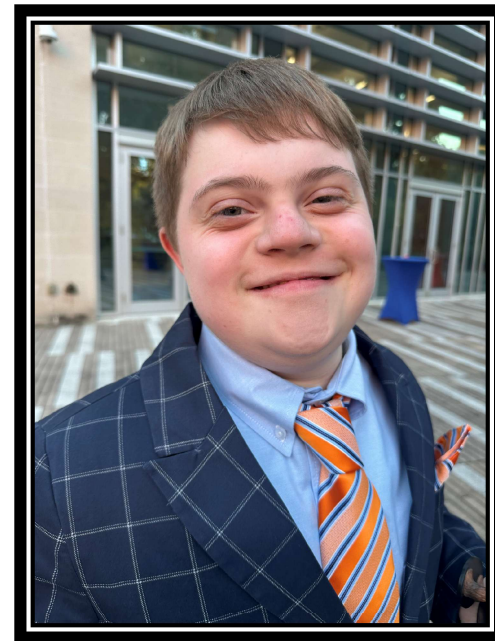


# Empowering Advocacy: Harnessing AI for Impact

**Julie Gerhard Rothholz**  
**Parent Advocate**



**Evan Rothholz**  
**Self-Advocate**



## How familiar are you with Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

- Who has never used AI?
- Who has dipped their toes into AI?
- Who regularly uses AI?
- Who uses AI for advocacy?



# Everyday AI Examples



**Amanda**  
AI Bot

Hi, I'm Amanda, your virtual assistant. How can I help you today?

Do you ship internationally?

Yes, we do! We offer international shipping to over 100 countries. What country would you be shipping to?

Germany

Type your message

**Zee Zee Does It Anyway!**: A Story about down Syndrome and Determination Paperback – September 22, 2022  
By [Suzanne Dodge](#) & [Dodie Hurley](#) (see all books by this author)

**Zee Zee Does It Anyway!** is a Mom's Choice Awards® Gold Recipient!

**PLUS**  
Readers: Favorite! Give this book a 5-star review!

Have you ever met someone with an EXTRA 21st chromosome? If you have, then you already know someone with Down Syndrome. But if you haven't met someone with this trait before today, please meet Zee Zee and learn what is different about her DNA. But surprise! She's not as different as you might think. Zee Zee is a fun-loving and determined girl who can bake, dance, swim and even fly!

Report an issue with this product or seller

Reading age	Page length	Language	Dimensions	Publication date
1 - 12 years	40 pages	English	8.5 x 11 x 0.5 inches	September 22, 2022

See all details

**Follow the author**  
Dr. Yvona B. Strupka

**Frequently bought together**

Item	Price
This Item: Zee Zee Does It Anyway! A Story about Down Syndrome and Determination	12.99
Difficult—A Great Thing to Be!	9.99
Hannah's Down Syndrome Superpowers (The Three New Heroes)	12.99

Total price: 154.10  
Total Items: 3 items  
Add all 3 items

# What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?



AI is computer programs/systems that can help with writing, learning, organizing, and more.



AI uses information and patterns to predict, create, and make recommendations.



AI is a tool—just like spell check or a calculator.

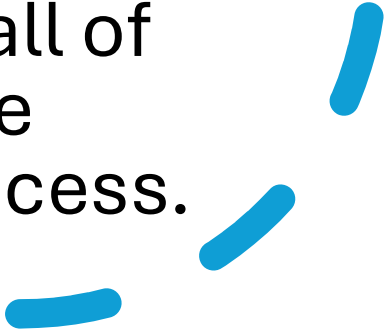


Our goal is to use AI to make advocacy easier and more effective.

# Examples of Artificial Intelligence Tools

- ChatGPT: <https://chatgpt.com/>
- Perplexity AI: <https://www.perplexity.ai/>
- Claude: <https://claude.ai/>
- Google Gemini: <https://gemini.google.com/app>

There is free access for all of these, though some have limitations to the free access.



# Practical Uses of AI in Advocacy

1

Summarizing  
legislation

2

Developing your  
talking points or  
issue briefs

3

Creating plain  
language  
materials

4

Organizing your  
biography

5

Writing thank you  
notes and social  
media posts

# It Starts with a Prompt

A prompt is the instructions you give to AI to guide it

- Think of it as a recipe.

A prompt should contain:

- A role: Tell AI who it's acting as.
- A task: What you want AI to do.
- A format: What do you want your results to look like?
- HINT: ask the AI to include its sources.

Review and edit your results

- Review to make sure the information is correct—AI sometimes makes mistakes!
- Edit the results to your preferences.

# Summarizing Legislation

- **Role:** You are an advocate going to Washington DC to advocate for people with Down syndrome. You will discuss H.R. 1436/S. 627, the ENABLE Act.
- **Task:** Please provide a summary of the bill so that you understand the benefits for individuals with disabilities.
- **Format:** The summary should be a 1-page document
- **Note:** This was version 2. AI doesn't always stick to your length restrictions!

1

Summarizing  
legislation

## Summary: H.R. 1436/S. 627 — The ENABLE Act

### Purpose:

The ENABLE Act (Ensuring Nationwide Access to a Better Life Experience Act) is bipartisan legislation to make permanent several key features of ABLER (Achieving a Better Life Experience) accounts. ABLER accounts help people with disabilities—including Down syndrome—save money for disability-related expenses without losing eligibility for critical federal benefits like Medicaid and SSI.

### What Does the ENABLE Act Do?

The ENABLE Act makes permanent three important ABLER account provisions set to expire in 2025:

#### 1. ABLER to Work Expansion:

- Lets employed people with disabilities save extra money in their ABLER accounts above the usual annual limit (up to the federal poverty level or their yearly pay, whichever is less).

#### 2. Saver's Credit:

- Allows ABLER account holders to claim a federal tax credit (up to \$1,000) for contributions to their accounts, helping them and their families save more.

#### 3. 529 Plan Rollovers:

- Permits families to roll over funds from 529 college savings plans into ABLER accounts (within annual limits), giving flexibility if education savings are no longer needed for college.

### Why Is This Important?

- **Financial Security:** Enables people with disabilities to save for current and future needs—like housing, healthcare, and transportation—without risking benefits.
- **Family Flexibility:** Families can move unused college savings into ABLER accounts for disability-related expenses.
- **Stability:** Permanently extending these provisions removes uncertainty and helps families plan for the long term.

### Bottom Line:

Passing the ENABLE Act will protect and strengthen ABLER accounts, empowering people with Down syndrome and other disabilities to build a more secure and independent future.

Generated using Perplexity.

# Developing Your Talking Points

2

Developing your talking points or issue briefs

- **Role:** You are an individual visiting your legislators in Washington DC to advocate for individuals with Down syndrome, and you will be talking about the ENABLE Act
- **Task:** Please create talking points to guide the discussion of key points with legislators
- **Format:** the information should be presented as an overview of up to 5 key bullet points that can be presented in 1-2 minutes. You may receive questions about who sponsored the bill.

## ENABLE Act: Key Talking Points for Legislators

- The ENABLE Act will make essential enhancements to ABLE accounts permanent, ensuring individuals with Down syndrome and other disabilities can continue to save and invest for their futures without risking eligibility for critical benefits like Medicaid and SSI [6](#) [7](#) [8](#).
- Over 162,000 ABLE accounts have empowered people with disabilities to save \$1.74 billion annually, supporting greater financial independence and opportunities for employment and community participation [5](#) [8](#).
- Three key provisions are set to expire at the end of 2025:
  - **ABLE to Work:** Allows employed individuals with disabilities to make additional contributions to their ABLE accounts.
  - **ABLE Saver's Credit:** Provides a tax credit of up to \$1,000 for contributions to ABLE accounts.
  - **529 to ABLE Rollover:** Enables rollovers from 529 education savings plans to ABLE accounts without penalty [7](#) [8](#).
- The ENABLE Act has strong bipartisan support and is widely backed by disability advocacy organizations, reflecting its importance to families across the country [6](#) [7](#) [8](#).
- Passing the ENABLE Act will provide long-term security and peace of mind for families, ensuring individuals with Down syndrome can plan for a better, more independent future [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#).

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# Creating Plain Language Materials

- **Role:** You are 14-year-old 8<sup>th</sup> grader visiting your legislators in Washington DC. You enjoy learning with your typical peers.
- **Task:** Please create a document you can use to advocate with legislators about school funding and The Enable Act (S. 627, H.R. 1436)
- **Format:** The information should be presented as a series of short sentences written at a first to second grade level that can be easily read in 1-2 minutes by an individual who has Down syndrome and speech challenges.

3

Creating plain language materials



# Plain Language Material Example

My name is Evan Rothholz. I am 14 years old. I have Down syndrome. I am going into 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

I like being in class with all my friends. My school needs funding to help students like me learn with our friends.

I also want to go to college and have a job. The ENABLE Act can help me save for college and life.

Please support school funding, the ENABLE Act, and services I need.

# Organizing Your Biography


4

Organizing your biography

- **Goal:** Create a document that shares your story in a brief, organized, memorable way.
- AI can help because it:
  - Saves Time
  - Elevates clarity
  - Improves focus/length
  - Improves arrangement of information
- Applications that can help:
  - ChatGPT, Claude, Perplexity
  - Canva

**EVAN ROTHHOLZ: A CHAMPION OF ADVOCACY**  
Seeking your support to fulfill his and his friends' dreams

Contact:  
Parents: Mitchell Rothholz & Julie Cerhart-Rothholz



**Meet Evan**

Evan Rothholz is not your typical 14-year-old. With infectious enthusiasm and natural leadership abilities, Evan, who has Down syndrome, is a powerful voice for inclusion and self-advocacy. Supported by a dedicated team of teachers, therapists, para-professionals, friends, family, and community, Evan is making a difference every day. His motto, "I am smart, I am strong, I can do hard things," encapsulates his spirit and unwavering determination.

**Advocacy in Action**

- Speaks with lawmakers about saving for college and life
- Advocates for inclusive education
- Champions funding for direct support professionals

Evan enjoys meeting with policymakers to share his story and talk about the resources he and others need. He hopes to have continuous opportunities to save money for his future and to learn alongside his friends in general education classes. Having direct support professionals working with Evan and his friends provides the help they need to live full lives and be valued community members. Evan is proud to use his voice to help make things better for himself and others in the disability community.

**A Well-Rounded Life**

- Bat boy for his school's baseball team
- Plays Special Olympics Unified Bocce
- Participates in TOPSoccer
- On a Special Olympics bowling team

Beyond his advocacy work, Evan is an active member of his school and community. He proudly serves as the bat boy for his school's baseball team, cheering on his teammates with unwavering enthusiasm. He thrives in sports, participating in Special Olympics Unified Bocce, TOPSoccer, and bowling. These activities provide opportunities for Evan to develop his athletic skills, build friendships, and demonstrate his competitive spirit. Furthermore, he spends most of his school day in general education, contributing to a vibrant and inclusive learning environment.

**A Future Filled with Promise**

Evan Rothholz is an inspiration to us all. His unwavering determination, infectious enthusiasm, and passionate advocacy are paving the way for a more inclusive and equitable future. As Evan continues to grow and develop, we are confident that he will continue to make a profound impact on the lives of others. By supporting individuals like Evan, we can build a society where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Keep an eye on Evan, he has a lot more to offer.

Generated using Canva

# Writing Social Media Posts and Thank You Notes

5

Writing thank you notes and social media posts

- **Role:** You visited Washington DC with a group of advocates across your state to discuss the importance of Medical Research, The Enable Act, Medicaid Funding, and School Funding for individuals with Down syndrome or other disabilities.
- **Task:** Please create a social media post for X/Twitter and one for Facebook thanking them for the meeting and engagement; also, create an email follow up recapping the topics you discussed and thanking them for their time and engagement.
- **Format:** The X/Twitter post should be about 225 characters long; the Facebook post should be 2-3 sentences, and the email can be 3-4 paragraphs.
- **HINTS:**
  - You can include multiple requests in one chat!
  - You can write the content ahead of time
  - Vary the wording in social media posts

# Writing Social Media Posts and Email, Part 1

5

Writing thank you notes and social media posts

## X/Twitter

@politiciansocialmediahandle  
Thank you for engaging with advocates in DC to discuss medical research, the ENABLE Act, Medicaid, and school funding for the Down syndrome community. Every conversation helps move these critical issues forward!

## Facebook

Thank you,  
@politiciansocialmediahandle, for taking the time to meet with us in DC to discuss critical issues affecting the Down syndrome community, including medical research, the ENABLE Act, Medicaid, and school funding. Advocacy is strongest when we work together. Looking forward to continuing these important conversations!

# Writing Social Media Posts and Email, Part 2

5

Writing thank you notes and social media posts

## Follow-Up Email (3-4 paragraphs)

Subject: Thank You for Meeting with Us

Dear [Legislator's Name],

I want to sincerely thank you for taking the time to meet with us in Washington, D.C. to discuss the issues impacting individuals with Down syndrome. It was an honor to advocate alongside my 14-year-old child and others from across the state, emphasizing the importance of medical research, the ENABLE Act, Medicaid funding, and school resources. Your willingness to engage in these discussions means so much to our community.

As we highlighted during our meeting, continued investment in medical research will advance critical health outcomes, while the ENABLE Act will provide much-needed support for financial independence for individuals with disabilities. Preserving Medicaid funding is essential for ensuring accessible healthcare, and prioritizing school funding directly impacts educational opportunities. We appreciate your attention to these matters and your dedication to policies that uplift the Down syndrome community.

We look forward to staying connected and working together to promote positive change. Please let us know how we can support efforts to push these initiatives forward. Thank you again for your leadership and commitment to advocacy.

Best regards,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]

# Today We Learned...

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That we're already using AI more than we thought we were!



That AI is a tool that can help us prepare for advocacy in many ways, even creating materials that make advocacy easier for advocates and self advocates.



That we can write a prompt by giving AI its role, a task, and a format—AND that we should check the results.



That when a self-advocate takes the stage, they're a hard act to follow, and they tell a more effective story!



**What Questions Can I Answer?**