

Rights and Responsibilities in History:
Remembering the Legacy of Ryan White

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Junior Division
Group Performance
Process Paper:
500 words

In 2024 we enjoyed participating in NHD and decided to participate as a group this year. We brainstormed ideas for the theme, Rights and Responsibilities, and decided that Ryan White's story fit perfectly. In 1985, Ryan was a 13-year-old boy with hemophilia and one of the first children diagnosed with AIDS. Ryan was barred from school due to lack of education about AIDS. Ryan fought in court for his right to attend school. But fear surrounded Ryan, and he took the responsibility to educate people about AIDS so others wouldn't face the same discrimination.

Our research started at our library where we found Ryan's autobiography. At the Indianapolis Children's Museum, we explored the Ryan White exhibit and attended presentations by Ryan's family. A letter from Elton John to Ryan helped us understand their relationship. We watched *The Ryan White Story*, several news clips, and interviews with Ryan. At the Kokomo Library, we found several primary sources, many providing opposing viewpoints. We visited Ryan's gravesite which was a heartwarming experience.

Personal interviews were significant. At the Indianapolis Children's Museum, we interviewed Ryan's mother, his sister, and his co-worker. Later we had a more extensive telephone interview with Ryan's mother. We interviewed Ryan's lawyer, Charles Vaughan.

We decided a performance would show emotion while telling multiple perspectives. We learned how close Elton John was to Ryan, and we watched a video of Elton John where he stopped a concert in Indianapolis to pay tribute to Ryan. We wrote our script, using that as the setting. We included the court scene to show both viewpoints. We designed our backdrop to look like Ryan's bedroom. A challenge we

faced was losing a team member, Sully Rockwell. He cannot join us at the national contest, requiring us to revise our script.

When AIDS was on the rise in the 1980s, it was blamed on homosexual men and drug addicts. At that time, there was a lot of misinformation about AIDS. Then Ryan White contracted AIDS from a tainted batch of Factor 8, a clotting agent. He was denied his right to attend school. Ryan fought in court but after winning that right, he faced ridicule and discrimination. His battles gained him national recognition and he used that fame to take the responsibility to educate others. Ryan started a conversation with the public to accurately present the reality of AIDS, inspiring more research into AIDS.

Ryan appeared in educational campaigns until his death in 1990. His fight against stigmas impacted the way people react to AIDS and he helped change the prejudice against AIDS as a “gay plague”. Because Ryan fought for his right to attend school, children with AIDS today can attend school and lead normal lives. He took the responsibility to speak before the President’s Commission on AIDS, and in 1990, the Ryan White Care Act was passed and continues to help thousands get treatment. Ryan understood that with rights comes responsibility. He spoke out with courage. Ryan’s legacy is his message of compassion.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources:

AIDS Victim Starts School Over Telephone. *The New York Times*. August 27, 1985. Section A, P.19.

This article describes Ryan White's battle to return to school. The school system decided he could only go to school remotely, and from this article, we learned how Ryan had to take classes on his telephone. After studying by elearning during Covid, we can only imagine how difficult using a telephone would be!

Altman, Lawrence. "Rare Cancer seen in 41 Homosexuals". *The New York Times*. New York, New York. Section A, P. 20. July 3, 1981.
<https://www.nytimes.com/1981/07/03/us/rare-cancer-seen-in-41-homosexuals.html>

This is a breaking news article from the New York Times archives, detailing the outbreak of a rare form of cancer, labeled Kaposi's Sarcoma that would become known as AIDS. From this, we learned about the history of the disease.

Baron, Ray. "Worried Parents Attend Meeting". *Kokomo Tribune*. Kokomo, Indiana. P.11. Aug.13, 1985.

This article helped us understand the parent concerns and how much they were pressuring the school to not allow Ryan back in school. It also showed us that not all the teachers, including Principal Colby were not against Ryan but had to do what the superintendent told them to do. From this, we decided to portray Mr. Smith, the superintendent, in the court scene.

Colby, Ronald. Interview. *WTLC's Like It Is*. February 23, 1986. Audio Tape Reel. Indianapolis, IN: William H. Smith Memorial Library. Indiana Historical Society. Accessed 2/18/25.
<https://cdm16797.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/WTLC/id/397>

Mr. Colby was the principal of Western Middle School in Kokomo, Indiana and this interview takes place after Ryan won the right to go to school. The parents against Ryan were granted a temporary restraining order to keep Ryan out of school. Mr. Colby discussed how teachers might lose their jobs, and who would be liable if another student contracts AIDS from Ryan, and hearing his voice helped us portray Mr. Colby.

Constitution of the State of Indiana 1816. "Article 8. Education". Indiana Constitutional Convention. pp. 51-55. Accessed 3/5/2025.
<https://iuidigital.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/ISC/id/108/rec/22>

We accessed a digitized copy of the original Indiana Constitution at the Indiana University Library. It was interesting because it was written in cursive and hard to read. Article 8 of the Indiana Constitution guarantees all children the right to go to school. We quote from this in our play.

Draeger, Arden. Publisher and General Manager. "Every Right", *Kokomo Tribune*. Kokomo, Indiana. p.5. Aug.2,1985.

This article quotes James Smith, Western School Superintendent, that Ryan will not be allowed in school because Western can not adhere to a list of precautions recommended by the Indiana Board of Health. Mr. Dreager argues that Ryan should be allowed in school because AIDS is not transmittable through casual contact and that any other decision punishes Ryan for a situation over which he has no control. We quote from this in our performance.

"Elton John and Ryan White Meet for First Time". Photograph. Oakland, CA. 1986. Accessed 2/14/2025.
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-2173528/Elton-John-book-Singer-pays-tribute-AIDS-victim-Ryan-White.html>.

This photograph was taken when Ryan met Elton John for the first time at Elton's concert in Oakland, CA. Ryan refers to this in his book as meeting his hero because Elton dared to be different. We used this photo on our backdrop for our play.

Farm Aid 1990. *Elton John Dedicated Song to Ryan's Memory*. April 8, 1990. Farm Aid YouTube channel. Accessed 12/28/24.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYpRbR0fg54>

This is footage of Elton John performing at Farm Aid just hours before Ryan passed away. Elton left Ryan's bedside to attend the Concert, spoke about Ryan at the concert, and then dedicated the song *Candle in the Wind* to Ryan. Ryan's mother told us about this moment, and it was quite moving to watch the footage of the performance.

Friedman, Jack. "The Quiet Victories of Ryan White". *People Weekly*. May 30, 1988. Pp. 86-96.

This article contained an interview with Ryan and several pictures of Ryan and his family. It also contained interviews with some of his friends at Hamilton Heights High School. Ryan talks about being famous, and says that he feels it is his purpose in life to speak out and promote awareness about AIDS to help others. We use this magazine as a prop in our play.

Froslid, Heather. Interview by Authors. Indianapolis Children's Museum. Dec. 28, 2024.

Ms. Froslid worked with Ryan White at a skateboard shop in Indianapolis. She told us she wasn't scared to work with him. From this interview, we learned that Ryan was a normal kid who liked to goof off, which helped us relate to him!

History.com. Editors. *History Uncut: Ryan White 1986*. A&E Television Networks. Accessed 12/21/2024
<https://www.history.com/videos/history-uncut-ryan-white-1986>

This video was composed of raw footage of Ryan White the day he returned to school. It showed him going to school and then being escorted out by the principal. The video also featured a press interview with Ryan about his first day. It was interesting to see Ryan in person, as a student just like us, going to school, and we can only imagine how excited he must have been.

Hooper, Celia. *Teenager Ryan White Describes AIDS Battle to Commission*. Mar. 4, 1988. UPI Archives. Accessed 12/21/2024.
<https://www.upi.com/Archives/1988/03/04/Teenager-Ryan-White-describes-AIDS-battle-to-commission/7566573454800/>

In this interview with Ryan White, after he spoke to the President's Commission on AIDS, Ryan describes his life with AIDS and the discrimination he endured. We incorporated some of his comments into our script.

Janhowski, Lynne. "Aids Fears Spawn Private School". *USA Today*. P. 34. April 27, 1986.

When Ryan was diagnosed with AIDS, many parents in Kokomo were upset and some started a private school for their children. From this we realized just how scared people were of Ryan.

K T Streetalk. "Do you agree with Western's rule barring an AIDS pupil?". P.1. *Kokomo Tribune*. Kokomo IN. Aug. 12, 1985.

It talks about how people in his own town felt about Ryan and his school ban. They interviewed 6 different people, however only 2 said it was wrong to keep him from school. It really shows the discrimination Ryan faced while in Kokomo and it is truly heartbreaking.

Mattox, Barry. "Ryan White Winning Struggle with a Stigma". *USA Today*. P. 28. March 3, 1989.

This article talks about how Ryan is changing the way people view AIDS. From this we learned more about his impact.

Macnell, Christopher M. "Ryan's Case May Go to Court". *Kokomo Tribune*. Kokomo, Indiana. P. 1. Aug, 3, 1985.

This article describes how the school barred Ryan, and how his mother is considering filing a court case. It also goes into detail about the 1977 Indiana State Law that can ban children with communicable diseases. This helped us learn more about the case against Ryan going to school.

Macnell, Christopher M. "School Bars Doors to Youth with AIDS". *Kokomo Tribune*. Kokomo, Indiana. p.1. July 13, 1985.

This newspaper showed the prejudice that the school board had against him, and it was terrible how they treated him. The school administrator stated that he "hoped Ryan was sicker than he is now and then they wouldn't have to deal with him at school." The school made no effort for him to attend school, but they did promote the idea of him working from home

Macnell, Christopher. M. "Tempers Flare at AIDS Hearing". *Kokomo Tribune*, Kokomo, Indiana. p. 1. Nov. 27, 1985.

This article told how heated people became at the public hearing and contained several opinions of those parents opposed to Ryan attending school. We learned that the school's attorney claimed to be a pro-handicap person and he had helped handicapped children fight against discrimination. This was interesting to us because Ryan's lawyer decided to use the defense that AIDS is but a handicap to Ryan.

Miley, Scott L. "Ryan White Film Flops in Kokomo". *Kokomo Tribune*. Kokomo, Indiana. P. 1. Feb 1, 1989.

This is an article about The Ryan White Story that has just been released. The author says that people in Kokomo did not like the movie because of how they were portrayed.

Myers, Woodrow. MD. Interview. *WTLC's Like It Is*. April 15, 1990. Audio Tape Reel. Indianapolis, IN: William H. Smith Memorial Library. Indiana Historical Society. Accessed 2/18/25.
<https://cdm16797.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/WTLC/id/8301>

Dr. Myers was the Indiana State Health Commissioner during the time Ryan White faced AIDS, and this interview took place after Ryan's funeral. Dr. Myers described Ryan's struggles with AIDS and how his voice of compassion will be his lasting legacy. We used this quote when writing our script.

Paine, Amoriy "Ryan White Wins Court Battle". Indiana Civil Liberties Union: *The Advocate*. Vol. 3, No. 3. Page 1. Spring 1986. Digital Image 2013. Indianapolis, IN: William H. Smith Memorial Library. Indiana Historical Society. Accessed 1/21/2025.
<https://cdm16797.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/V0002/id/3522>

This article by the Indiana Civil Liberties Union covers the court case where Ryan won the right to go back to school. We used this when writing the court scene for our performance.

Reagan, Ronald. President. *Presidential Commission on Human Immunodeficiency Virus Epidemic. Executive Order 126001*. June 24, 1987. Federal Register. Vol.52, No. 124. Accessed 12/22/2024.
[https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/speech/executive-order-12601-presidential-commission-human-immunodeficiency-virus-epidemic#:~:text=\(a\)%20There%20is%20established%20the,or%20designated%20by%20the%20President.](https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/speech/executive-order-12601-presidential-commission-human-immunodeficiency-virus-epidemic#:~:text=(a)%20There%20is%20established%20the,or%20designated%20by%20the%20President.)

This is a government order issued by Ronald Reagan establishing the commission to help people with AIDS. This commission provides care for those with the disease and compensation for those who helped. We found this online in the Reagan Presidential Library and we refer to it in our performance.

Rehabilitation Act of 1973. H.R. 8070. Public Law 93-112. 5 /23/1973. Library of Congress. Accessed 2/20/2025.
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/93rd-congress/house-bill/8070>

This act mandates that children with handicaps must be accommodated in public school. Ryan's lawyer cited this act when arguing that AIDS is a handicap to Ryan and therefore must be allowed to attend school. We quote this in our script and use a copy of this act as a prop in our play.

Ryan With Classmates at Hamilton Heights High School. Sept. 14, 1987. As contained in Beckley, Lindsey. *Overcoming Stigma: Ryan White and Hamilton's Heights Educational Crusade.* Indiana Historical Bureau Blog. 8/29/2019. Accessed 3/14/2025.
<https://blog.history.in.gov/tag/ryan-white>

This is a photograph of Ryan White with Jill Stuart and classmates in the hallway of Hamilton Heights High School. We used this photograph as a prop in our play.

Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act 1990. Public Law 101-652. 8/18/1990. Library of Congress. Congress.Gov. Accessed 3/3/2025.
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/101st-congress/senate-bill/22>

Ryan spoke before the President's Commission on AIDS in support of the passage of this bill, and 2 months after his death, the bill was passed and named in his honor. We refer to this bill in our play.

Schurg, John. "His 'Best Friend' Is Like Any Other." *Kokomo Tribune.* Kokomo IN. August 2, 1985.

This article was heartfelt and so sweet. It talked about how his two best friends Heath and Chris Sadler felt about the whole situation. Both friends and their parents said that Ryan was the sweetest kid and they believed he was perfectly safe to be around.

SerVaus, Cory. M.D. "The Happier Days for Ryan White". *The Saturday Evening Post.* Indianapolis, IN. Sept. 1988. Pp. 52-58.

This article contains an interview with Ryan when he is 16 years old and is living in Cicero, Indiana. He talks about his friend Elton John and how Elton helped his family move away from Kokomo by loaning them money for their house. We used a quote from this interview in our performance.

Staff Writer." *Lawyer Praises Two AIDS Patients". The Associated Press.* April 26, 1987.

This article features Mr. Vaughan, Ryan's Lawyer, talking about two other AIDS victims that he is helping. It showed us how much Mr. Vaughan really cared and wanted to help.

Stuteville, George. "Celebrities Rally Around Ryan". *Kokomo Tribune*. Kokomo, Indiana. P.1. April 4, 1990.

Written after Ryan's death, this article talks about all the celebrities that came to Ryan's funeral and spoke about his impact on their lives. From this we learned how great his influence was.

Vaughan, Charles V. Jr. "20th Anniversary of the Ryan White Case-How It Shaped the Thinking of A Nation through One Small Town Case". *Valpo Lawyer*. Spring 2006. Valparaiso, IN: Valparaiso University School of Law.

Mr. Vaughan and his father were Ryan White's lawyers and in this article, both men describe the Ryan White case in detail. The article also included a very good timeline and helped us organize our play.

Vaughan, Charles V. Jr. Telephone Interview by Authors. Nashville, IN. Feb. 26, 2024.

Mr. Vaughan was Ryan's lawyer in his fight for his right to go to school. This interview provided information about how he helped Ryan win the court battle by focusing on AIDS being a handicap to Ryan, and children's handicaps must be accommodated in public school.

White, Andrea. Interview by Authors. Indianapolis Children's Museum. Dec. 28, 2024.

This interview with Ryan's sister, Andrea, helped provide inside information about what it was like to be Ryan's sister. It helped us get a better grasp of the discrimination that the whole family faced.

White, Jeanne. "Editorial". *USA Today*. New York, N.Y. Dec. 27, 1990.

Jeanne White wrote an editorial in response to a cut in appropriations to the original \$880 million set aside in funds. She said that Ryan's legacy is the message that the blaming part of AIDS must be replaced by concern and compassion for people who are ill. We use that quote in our play.

White, Jeanne. "Jeanne White Remembers...". *Indianapolis Monthly*. Indianapolis, IN. June 6, 1990.

The article was so heartfelt. It brought most of us to tears. It talks about Jeanne's struggles when caring for Ryan and how he always had a smile on his face. She also talks about all the people he met, really proving that Ryan changed history.

White, Jeanne. *Weeding Out The Tears-A Mother's Story of Love, Loss and Renewal*. New York: Avon Books. 1997.

While reading this book by Ryan White's mother, we got insight about her struggles. We read how Ryan battled for his right to go to school and live a normal life. She went into detail about Ryan's life, making sure his story is known and her book was truly moving.

White-Ginder, Jeanne. Interview by Authors. Indianapolis Children's Museum. Dec. 28, 2024.

Ryan's mother and his sister spoke at the Children's Museum, and afterward, we were able to ask each of them many questions. His mother showed us her scrapbooks of him to give us a better idea of how he was just like any other kid. This also led to us scheduling a personal telephone interview with her.

White-Ginder, Jeanne. Telephone Interview by Authors. Nashville, IN. Jan. 4, 2025.

We interviewed Ryan White's mother, and we learned her perspective and his words toward her—stories the media couldn't tell us. She talked to us for over an hour, and her personal story made Ryan's story come alive to us. We referred to this when we wrote our script.

White-Ginder, Jeanne. *Who Was Ryan White?* Audio clip. HRSA Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program. Feb. 2022. Accessed 2/9/2025.
<https://ryanwhite.hrsa.gov/about/ryan-white>

This is the website for the Ryan White Foundation and we listened to audio clips made by Ryan's mother. She talks about Ryan's fight to go to school and move to Cicero, Indiana, saying that he just wanted to live a normal life. She stated that his legacy is that he educated people about AIDS, inspiring research.

White, Ryan. *1988 Ryan White Interview on Being Bullied*. Interview by Dan Rather. ABC News: Nightline. March 1988.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXnnbXwHkwE>

In this interview, Ryan White describes what it was like after he won the right to go to school and how much fear and bullying he faced. He described how he was accused of spitting on vegetables, biting cookies and putting them back in packages, and other false rumors about him. This provided us with a realistic view of what Ryan faced and hearing it in his own words really made an impact on us. We quoted from this in our performance.

White, Ryan. *Ryan White's Testimony before the President's Commission on AIDS*. Presidential Commission on the Human Immunodeficiency Virus Epidemic. Records relating to Meetings and Hearings, 1981-1988. Prevention and Education: Transcript, March 3, 1988. Folder 2 of 2. Pp. 827-832. College Park, MD: National Archives. Accessed 1/16/2025.
<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/6254842>

Ryan was invited to present in front of Congress, and we found the original speech in the National Archives. This helped us write our script, as well as provided us with information about his fight to go to school.

White, Ryan and Marie Cunningham. *Ryan White: My Own Story*. New York: Signet 1991.

This is Ryan's autobiography, which helped us better understand his personal aspect of the story. It also helped us understand more about how much he felt the responsibility to educate others. From this, we learned his personal accounts of the long court battles, his connection to Elton John, and his speech to Congress.

Secondary Sources:

Beckley, Lindsey. *Overcoming stigma: Ryan White Hamilton Heights, and Tony Cook's Educational Crusade*. Aug. 29, 2019. Indiana Historical Bureau. Accessed 1/11/2025.
<https://blog.history.in.gov/overcoming-stigma-ryan-white-hamilton-heights-and-to-ny-cooks-educational-crusade>

This article taught us more about Ryan's original struggles going to school in Kokomo. When Ryan moved to Cicero, Tony Cook was the principal at Hamilton Heights. He helped Ryan White get accepted into the school by educating the students about AIDS. He also supported the student council president, Jill Stuart, and her programs, hoping that the students would then educate their parents. We refer to this in our script.

Brown, Nancy."Mothers Against AIDS in Kokomo, Indiana". *Indiana Magazine of History*. June. 2018. Pp.81-114.

This was a detailed article about the fight to keep Ryan White out of school in Kokomo. This provided a clear viewpoint of the other side of the story. We refer to this group in our performance.

Cleniden, Dudley."Schools in New York Will Admit An AIDS Pupil But Not 3 Others".*New York Times*. New York, N.Y. Sept. 8, 1985.
<https://www.nytimes.com/1985/09/08/us/schools-in-new-york-will-admit-an-aids-pupil-but-not-3-others.html>.

From this article, we learned of three girls, triplets, who were born with AIDS. They were not allowed to attend school with other children but were taught in an empty old building. This happened during the time that Ryan was fighting in court for his right to go to school and from this, we learned that Ryan was not the only child who was being discriminated against.

Dickerson, Taylor. *When I Die, Please Don't Bury Me in Kokomo: Ryan White's Contribution to the History of AIDS in the United States*. Unpublished Dissertation. Accessed 1/3/2025.
<https://www.in.gov/history/files/Bennett-Tinsley-Award-Entry-Taylor-Dickerson.pdf>

This article provided a good analysis of the conflict between the parents and Ryan White's family in Kokomo. It contained a lengthy bibliography that led us to other sources.

John, Elton. "Skyline Pigeon". By Elton John and Bernie Taupin. Released 1-1-1973. Track 8 on *Don't Shoot Me I'm Only the Piano Player*. This Recording Company, LTD. 1972. Accessed 3/5/2025
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P30CR7v7c5w>

At Ryan's funeral, Elton John played this song and dedicated it to Ryan. He has spoken frequently about how much Ryan meant to him and how Ryan helped him change his lifestyle. We played a clip from this song to end our performance.

Penningrath, Phil and John Herzfeld. Directed by John Herzfeld. *The Ryan White Story*. Made for TV Movie. Landsburg Company. ABC Network Release. Jan.16,1989.

From this documentary movie, we learned more about the day-to-day life of Ryan White and his fight to go to school. We also learned about the prejudice he faced because of his incurable disease. Seeing his life on screen provided us with a better understanding of the way Ryan was able to connect with people and make a difference.

Price, Nelson. *The Quiet Hero-A Life of Ryan White*. Indianapolis: Indianapolis Historical Society Press. 2015.

Mr. Price was a reporter that followed Ryan White, and his book explained Ryan's story and his fight to go to school. This helped us get more background information when writing our play.

Public Broadcasting Service. *Retro Report-The Forgotten History of AIDS*. PBS. Oct. 19, 2019. Accessed 1/21/2025.
<https://www.pbs.org/video/retro-report-on-pbs-season-1-episode-8-forgotten-history-aids>

This is a video from PBS about AIDS that shows how widespread the virus is, yet how less talked about it. It also showed us another side of the story, if Ryan was an innocent victim, does that imply everybody else was guilty? We reference this in our script.

Renfro, Paul. *The Life and Death of Ryan White: AIDS and Inequality in America*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press. 2024.

Though the author gives a detailed biography of Ryan White's life, he argues that Ryan White's story reinforced the stigma that AIDS victims are somehow guilty for spreading the virus. Renfro says that this created a division between the victims of AIDS. We asked Ryan's mother about this book when we interviewed her, and she told us she had not heard of this book and wondered why the author

had not contacted her for an interview. This book provided a different side to Ryan's impact and we do mention it in our performance.

Renfro, Paul. *The Poster Child for AIDS Obscured as Much About the Crisis as He Revealed*. Time. Nov. 30, 2023. Accessed 1/18/25.
<https://time.com/6340507/ryan-white-world-aids-day/>

In this article, Renfro maintains that Ryan White as the poster child for Aids was portrayed as an "innocent victim" and made other AIDS victims seem "guilty". This showed another side to Ryan's story, and we refer to this in our play.

Safianow, Allen. "Ryan White and Kokomo, Indiana: A City Remembers". *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History*. Indianapolis, IN. Vol. 25. Winter 2014. William H. Smith Memorial Library. Indiana Historical Society. Accessed 2/21/2025.
<https://cdm16797.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/search/searchterm/ryan%20white>

This article goes in depth talking about how some of the media exaggerated the discriminations against Ryan. It shows how not all people in Kokomo were against Ryan, although there were some against him.

Staff Report. "Kokomo Still Defending Its Image: 20 years After the Ryan White Case". *Bloomington Herald Times*. Oct.1, 2006. Accessed 12/14/2024.
<https://www.heraldtimesonline.com/story/news/2006/10/01/kokomo-still-defending-its-image-20-years-after-the-ryan-white-case/48306605/>

This article talks about how Kokomo Indiana continued to shun others with AIDS, even after Ryan White was allowed back in school. We learned that though Ryan forgave Kokomo for the way they treated him, he never wanted to return there.

Staff Report. "Parents, Teachers Could Claim Damages". *Kokomo Tribune*. Kokomo, Indiana. p.4. August 13,1985.

This article details how each member of the Mothers Against AIDS group could claim up to \$300,000 in damages if someone with AIDS was caught at their school. We decided this is a secondary source because it was about AIDS in general but not focused on Ryan, but it helped us understand how afraid some parents were that their children would get infected at school.

Starkey, Arun. *The Heartbreaking Letter Elton John Sent to Ryan White 20 years After his Death*. United Kingdom: Far Out Magazine. May 18,2022. Accessed 1/23/2025.
<https://faroutmagazine.co.uk/letter-elton-john-sent-ryan-white>

This article was very touching. This article contained a letter written by Elton John to Ryan White 20 years after his death. He talks about Ryan's impact and his legacy. We quoted from this letter in our script.

Warner, Daniel. "Ryan White's Battle Against Ignorance." *Los Angeles Times*. Los Angeles, CA. April 14, 1990.

This article talks about how Daniel Warner, a gay man with AIDS, was seen as not innocent. He was seen this way because many people stated Ryan was an "Innocent Victim" because he wasn't gay and didn't have control over how he got AIDS. He sees it as unfair that gay people with AIDS were perceived as "guilty" and this provided another perspective that we quote in our play.

Wthr.com. *Elton John Remembers Ryan White at his AIDS Gala*. Oct. 16, 2012. Accessed 1/4/2025.

<https://www.wthr.com/article/news/local/elton-john-remembers-ryan-white-his-aids-gala/531-4a0245d4-bcd6-4c27-a977-ac2a0f4b1f48>

At an AIDS fundraiser, Elton John talked about Ryan's impact on the AIDS movement and his importance in getting the Ryan White Care Act passed. From this we learned how many AIDS victims were treated and saved because of the Ryan White Care Act, that they were able to get treatment and medicine that they could not afford on their own.

Wthr.com. *Elton John says Ryan White's Family Saved His Life after Teen's Death*. April 2, 2022. Accessed 1/4/2025.

<https://www.wthr.com/article/news/local/elton-john-ryan-white-tribute-gainbridge-fieldhouse-indianapolis/531-a7937a26-f132-4958-a058-ff80145c1757> 1/4/25

This video and article was about Elton John, who stopped his performance and dedicated it in memory of Ryan White and talked about Ryan's impact on his life. After meeting Ryan, Elton became close family friends and supported Ryan as he promoted public awareness. From this, we got the idea to use Elton John's character as the narrator for our performance,