

References for Reality Check Campaign

David Beckham, a member of Major League Soccer's Los Angeles Galaxy admits that he suffers from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) - a disorder that causes sufferers to carry out bizarre and persistent rituals.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-381802/The-obsessive-disorder-haunts-life.html>

Abraham Lincoln was the sixteenth President of the United States, serving from March 4, 1861 until his assassination. There have been reports that Abraham Lincoln may have suffered from what was then called melancholia but today is known as depression. Lincoln's behavior matches what the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the handbook of mental health professionals, labels a major depressive episode.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4976127>

JK Rowling has revealed that she thought of suicide while suffering from depression as a struggling single mother. The *Harry Potter* author received cognitive behavioral therapy after suffering "suicidal thoughts" in the aftermath of separation from her first husband.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,340736,00.html>

Charles Darwin was a naturalist and author. Darwin's many lifelong and serious illnesses have been the subject of much speculation and study for over a century. Darwin stated that his health problems began as early as 1825 when he was only sixteen years old, and became incapacitating around age 28. The exact nature of Darwin's illness remains mysterious. It has been speculated that one of Darwin's conditions may have been Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

<http://www.disabled-world.com/artman/publish/famous-ocd.shtml>

Cameron Diaz is an American actress and former fashion model who has obsessive-compulsive disorder. She publicly admitted on *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno that she habitually rubs doorknobs so hard before opening doors to clean them that the original paint on the doorknobs fades afterwards. She says she washes her hands "many times" each day and uses her elbows to push open doors. Diaz commented on her progress with the disorder on May 10, 2007, saying, "I think I've made my peace with it"

<http://www.disabled-world.com/artman/publish/famous-ocd.shtml>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameron_Diaz

Jim Carrey is best known for his lively physical comedy and almost rubber-like facial expressions. He revealed in a 2004 *60 Minutes* interview that the inspiration for his funniness was "desperation." Even though Carrey worked hard and achieved great success in his career, he still suffered from depression.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/11/18/60minutes/main656547.shtml>

Billy Joel---In a book entitled "Billy Joel: The Life and Times of an Angry Young Man," it was revealed that Joel has battled for years with depression and alcoholism and tried to commit suicide by drinking furniture polish. He is quoted as saying, "I drank furniture polish. It looked tastier than bleach." Prior to the attempt, he left a suicide note, which later became the lyrics to "Tomorrow Is Today".

<http://depression.about.com/od/famous/p/billyjoel.htm>

Charles Dickens---one of the greatest authors in the English language suffered from depression, as documented in *Key to Genius* by Hershman and Lieb, and *Charles Dickens, Vols. I and II* by Edgar Johnson.

http://www.covenanthealth.com/ColdFusionApplication/CovHlthWhatsNew/Detail.cfm?Post_ID=3684

Ludwig Van Beethoven--- Ludwig van Beethoven was a composer and pianist who was thought to have suffered from bipolar disorder. There is suspicion that he may have contemplated suicide in 1813 when he disappeared for three days.

http://organizedwisdom.com/Beethoven_and_Bipolar_Disorder

Carrie Fisher, the actress who turned Star Wars' Princess Leia into a super heroine, told Diane Sawyer her manic depression creates such a roar of energy in the brain that she is left with uncontrollable mood swings, frenzied thoughts and suffers sleepless nights. "I have a chemical imbalance that, in its most extreme state, it will lead me to a mental hospital," Carrie Fisher told Diane Sawyer on PrimeTime Thursday (ABC 12/21/00)

http://www.nami.org/Template.cfm?Section=Stigma_Alerts_Archive&template=/contentmanagement/contentdisplay.cfm&ContentID=5099&title=NAMI+Campaign+to+End+Discrimination++February+2001

Halle Berry---attempted suicide with carbon monoxide poisoning, as she told *Parade*, after her marriage to baseball star David Justice crumbled and depression set in.

http://www.parade.com/articles/editions/2007/edition_04-01-2007/AHalle_Berry

Albert Einstein---Being one of the most important great minds of his century Albert Einstein was then known to suffer from dyslexia mainly because of his bad memory and his constant failure to memorize the simplest of things. It is also thought that he had OCD. He would not remember the months in the year yet he would succeed in solving some of the most complicated mathematical formulas of the time without any trouble. He may have never learned how to properly tie his shoelaces but his scientific contributions and theories still have a major effect on all of today's current knowledge of science.

<http://www.disabled-world.com/artman/publish/famous-ocd.shtml>

Michelangelo---one of the greatest artists of all times, suffered from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. He was not a social person and had a short temper, which would often blow to anger inside normal conversations with family members or strangers. He would avoid people most of the time and sometimes would even walk out of a conversation for no apparent reason. When an opinion would offend his beliefs, he would get angry and simply leave. Michelangelo was also known for always sleeping in his clothes including even his boots. He would almost never remove his boots even when they would cause damage to his feet. He would isolate himself for long periods working on himself and his arts, while ignoring and showing no emotion toward his surroundings. There was no doubt that while Michelangelo suffered from OCD, it did not keep him from being the best at his work.

<http://www.disabled-world.com/artman/publish/famous-ocd.shtml>

Justin Timberlake--according to an interview that Justin Timberlake gave, he has a "complicated" mix of OCD and attention deficit disorder. Timberlake states that he has to make sure that things are lined up perfect and makes sure that the fridge is stocked only with certain foods. Although he struggles with OCD ([Obsessive Compulsive Disorder](#)) and ADD ([Attention Deficit Disorder](#)) Timberlake says he still loves to perform and OCD does not stop him from

living.

<http://www.collider.com/entertainment/interviews/article.asp/aid/8221/tcid/1>

Brooke Shields---in her book "Down Came the Rain," she bares her soul about her experiences with postpartum depression. She reveals that her problems first began when her daughter Rowan was born and she was unable to form a bond with her. She felt like "a complete stranger to me," said Shields. At her lowest point, she had thoughts of jumping from a window and seeing her baby thrown against the wall. Thanks to the antidepressant Paxil and a sympathetic baby nurse, Brooke was eventually able to recover and develop a loving relationship with her baby.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7748616/>

Ashley Judd, actress and daughter/half-sister of the singing duo The Judds, revealed that she had suffered from depression and an eating disorder. Speaking about her problems in the July 2006 issue of *Glamour*, she was quoted as saying, "Supposedly my sister was the 'messed up' one and I was the 'perfect' one." Ashley Judd says she spent 47 days in a Texas treatment facility for depression and other emotional problems in an interview in *Glamour* magazine.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/07/05/ap/entertainment/mainD8IM2G680.shtml>

<http://www.glamour.com/magazine/2006/07/ashley-judd>

Hugh Laurie, the multi-talented British actor who portrays the tortured genius Dr. Greg House on Fox's hit medical drama "House" admitted in a 2007 article in *The Sunday Telegraph* that he was suffering from depression.

<http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/story/0,22049,22657520-5009160,00.html>