
Creating Disability Story Videos with Generative AI: Motivation, Expression, and Sharing

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People with Disabilities are sharing their stories on social media

The Vlogging Phenomena: A Deaf Perspective

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“It’s not wrong, but I’m quite disappointed”: Toward an Inclusive Algorithmic Experience for Content Creators with Disabilities

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“Vulnerable, Victimized, and Objectified”: Understanding Ableist Hate and Harassment Experienced by Disabled Content Creators on Social Media

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Please Understand My Disability: An Analysis of YouTubers’ Discourse on Disability Challenges

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LI LIU, California State University, Northridge, USA

YALI BIAN, Intel Labs, United States

Chasing Play on TikTok from Populations with Disabilities to Inspire Playful and Inclusive Technology Design

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Health Vlogs as Social Support for Chronic Illness Management

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LESLIE S. LIU and TINA NEOGI, University of Washington

KORI INKPEN, Microsoft Research

WANDA PRATT, University of Washington

Generative AI for Storytelling

GenAI enables creative expression, supporting:



Creating Images



Writing Scripts



Planning
Storylines



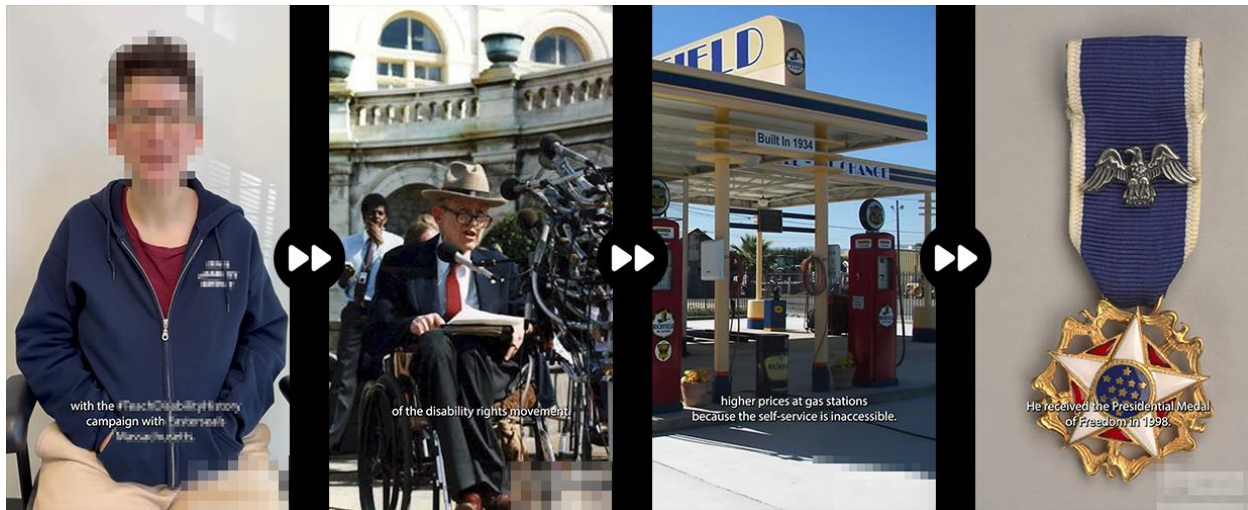
Making
Voiceovers

Disability Storytelling through Video-Making

Video is a key medium for **disability storytelling**

Supports expressing **identity, creativity, and community-building**

Barriers remain in **media production, communication, and ableism**



Generative AI in Disability Storytelling

GenAI potentially **lowers barriers** to creating story videos

But concerns remain around **bias**, and **misrepresentation** of people with disabilities (PwDs)

GenAI content can be **low quality**, platforms can **restrict** Gen AI use

Can GenAI effectively support PwDs who face barriers in video storytelling but wish to engage in disability activism and create online videos?

Research Questions

Guided by Lambert's Digital Storytelling Theory, we ask:

What moments do PwDs seek to show when creating stories with GenAI? What motivates story creation?

What components of stories do PwDs co-create with GenAI and how?

How do PwDs decide whether to share their GenAI-created stories and who to share them with? What motivates these decisions?

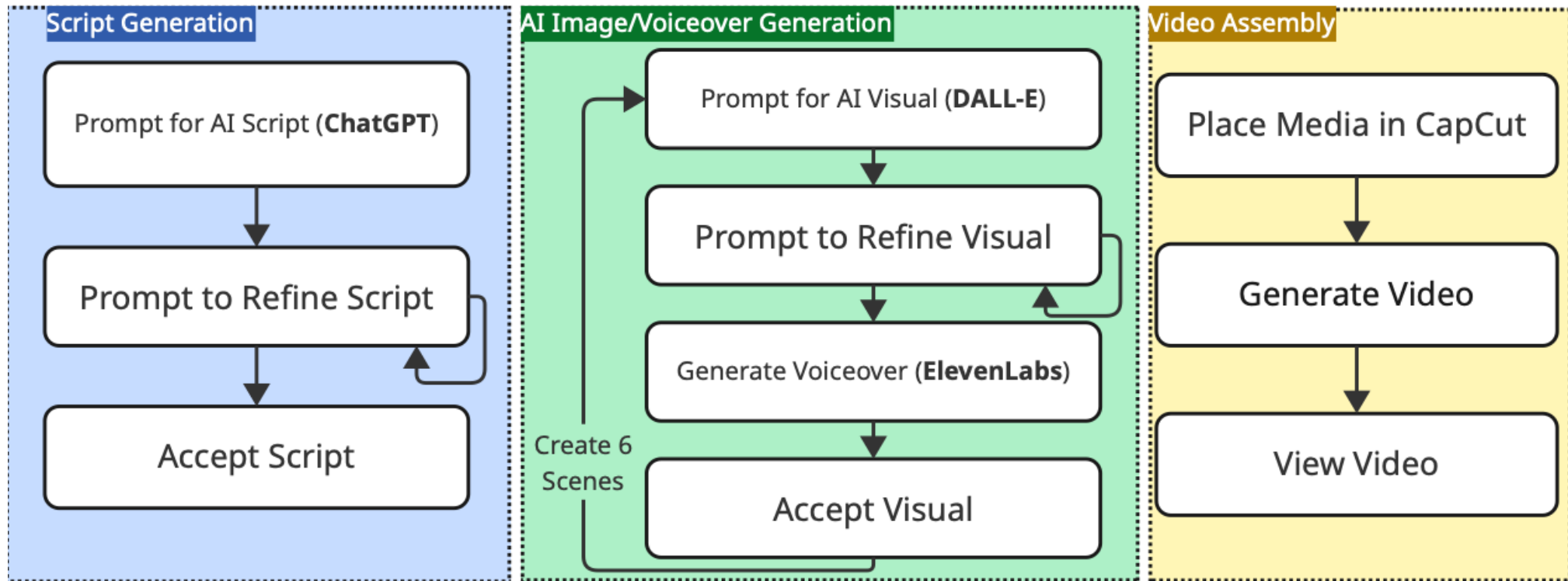
Study Design

9 participants from an advocacy group

ID	Age	Gender	Disability	GenAI Experience	Social Media Experience
P1	25-34	Male	Genetic condition with symptoms similar to cerebral palsy	ChatGPT, CoPilot	FaceBook and Instagram
P2	25-34	Female	Intellectual	Zona	Facebook, Instagram
P3	25-34	Male	Cerebral Palsy	ChatGPT	Facebook and Instagram
P4	18-24	Male	Autism Spectrum Disorder	ChatGPT	Facebook, YouTube, TikTok
P5	25-34	Female	Globally delayed in all areas, low muscle tone, AP scoliosis	None	Facebook, Instagram
P6	18-24	Male	A physical disability and an intellectual disability	Text to Speech	Instagram, TikTok
P7	25-34	Female	ADD, Autism, and Epilepsy	None	Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok
P8	18-24	Male	High-functioning autism and an intellectual disability	ChatGPT	Facebook
P9	25-34	Male	Visually Impaired	Gemini, SeeingAI	None

Study Design

- Created disability story videos
- ChatGPT, DALL-E, ElevenLabs
- Semi-structured interviews



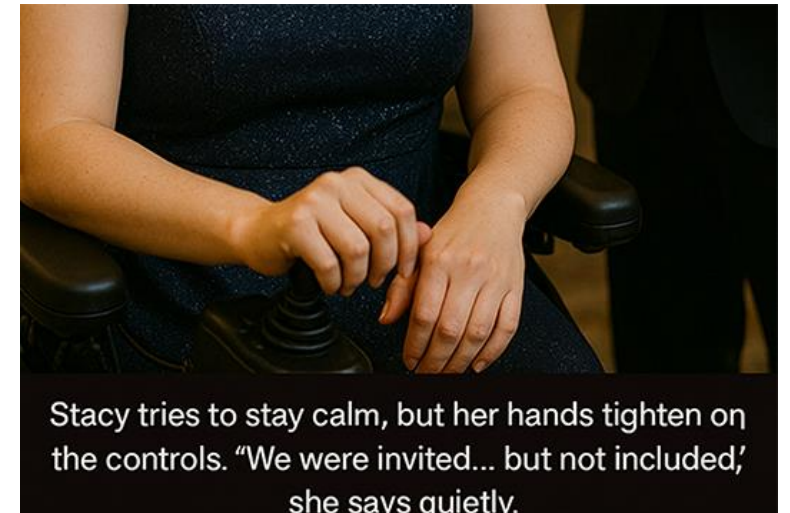
Non-capturable Depiction

- Used GenAI to **depict moments** that are **difficult to capture** in real life.
- Impressed by GenAI's efficiency in creating **realistic** images of **contexts**, **characters**, and **emotions**.
- Affords **reflection** and **visualization** of specific moments that can **expand** the range of **experiences** that can be captured and shared.
- Challenged by **unwanted content** and **illogical behaviors**.



"it can generate an image of somebody tripping over a ramp so that you don't have to get someone to like video it... because it can be chaotic and it can be a crisis."

P4



Unwanted Text
P5

Stacy tries to stay calm, but her hands tighten on the controls. "We were invited... but not included," she says quietly.

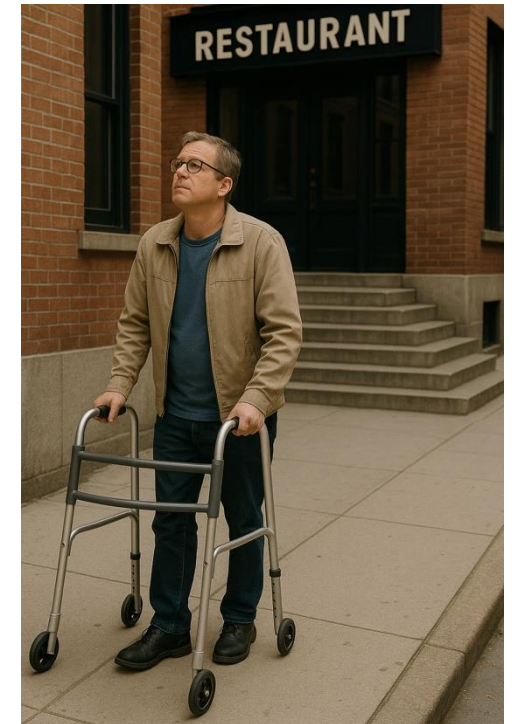
Identity Representation & Non-disclosure

- Used GenAI to create **new identities without disclosing** their own.
- Identity is **fabricated** while the disability experience remains **authentic**
- Emphasized that PwDs should keep **control** over the stories they co-create with GenAI
- Challenged by **failure** to depict certain **assistive devices** and production of **stereotypes**.



"telling the story of Bob... even though it's not real, um, Bob is like my alter-ego. Bob is the guy that I want to be because Bob has all the things that I want to have."

P9 Quote



`"Create the same image but John should have a posterior-walker"`

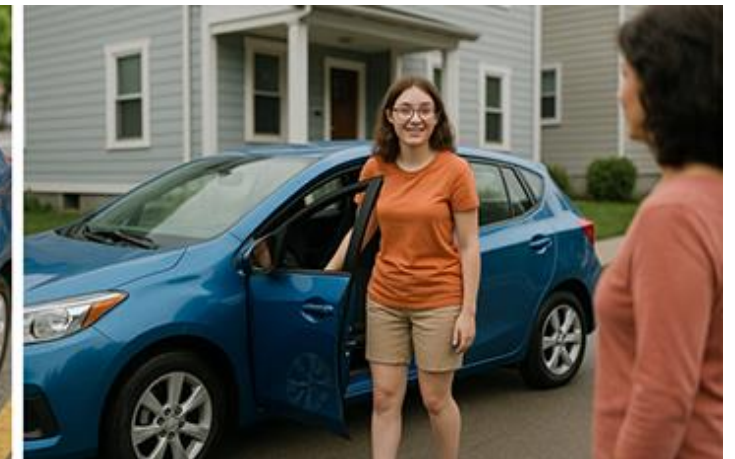
P1 Prompt

Context Realism & Consistency

- Used GenAI to depict **real locations** in stories
- Supports showing real-world scenarios and conveying **targeted messages** to relevant **stakeholders**
- **Authenticity** and **realism** help align stories with PwDs' **personal experiences**.
- Challenged by **inconsistencies** that harm realism



Thomas Jefferson Hospital P7



Emotion & Social Experience Articulation

- Used to show **emotions** and **social experiences** related to disability
- To **express feelings** about disability and **convey the message** of their stories
- Raises **awareness**, helping others better understand their **lived experiences**
- Accurately presenting emotion is critical for **reflection** and **communication**

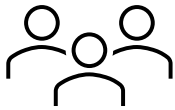


"I was very impressed with how good the images was able to show with what I was expressing and feeling... I know there's a lot of people who are going through this with driving and being super nervous"
P2

`"an image of Chris speaking,
and some lawmakers are keeping
working, some do not care"
P6 Prompt`

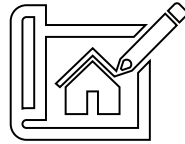


Sharing



General Public

- Most (7/9) saw potential for raising **awareness**
- A few (2/9) questioned **reach** and **impact**
- Concerns about video **quality** and **visibility**



Property Administrators

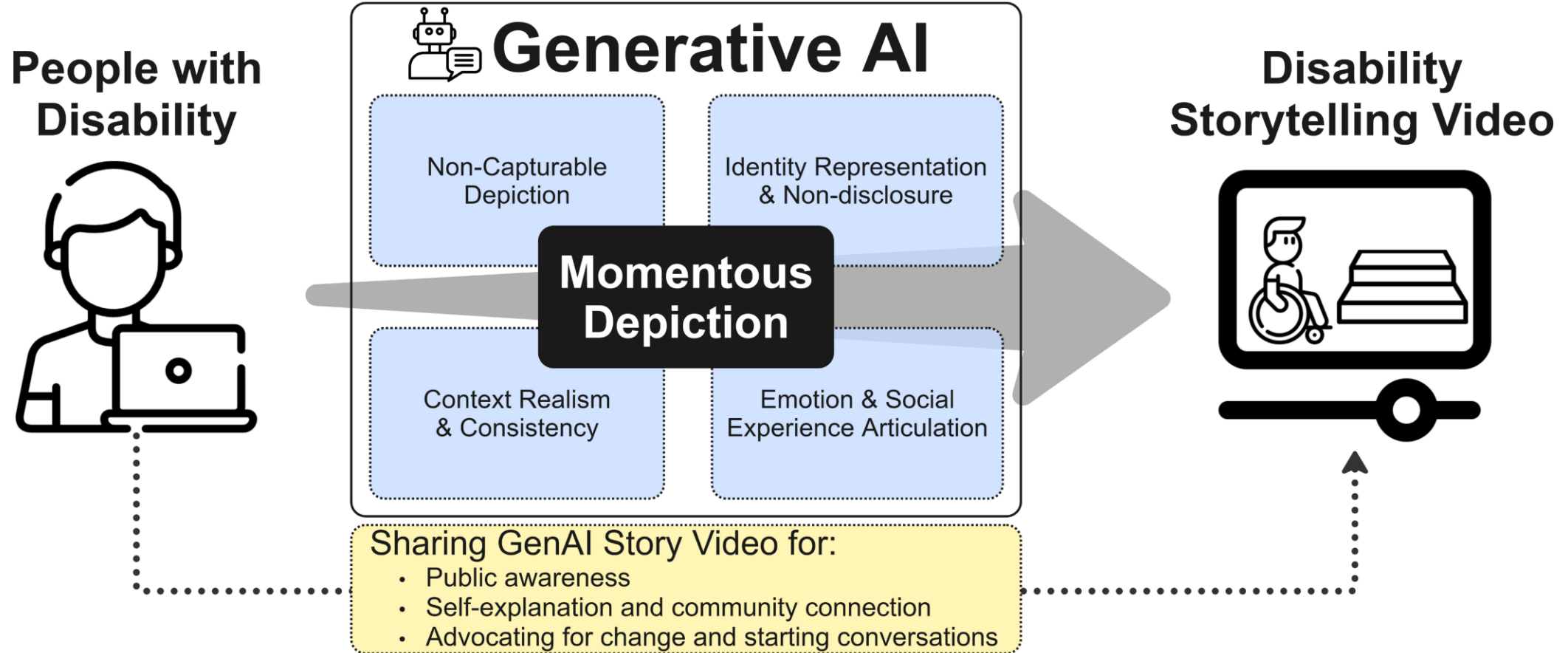
- Some (3/9) targeted sharing with decision-makers
- Used for advocating for **accessibility** in construction design
- Seen as **conversation starters**



Family and Friends

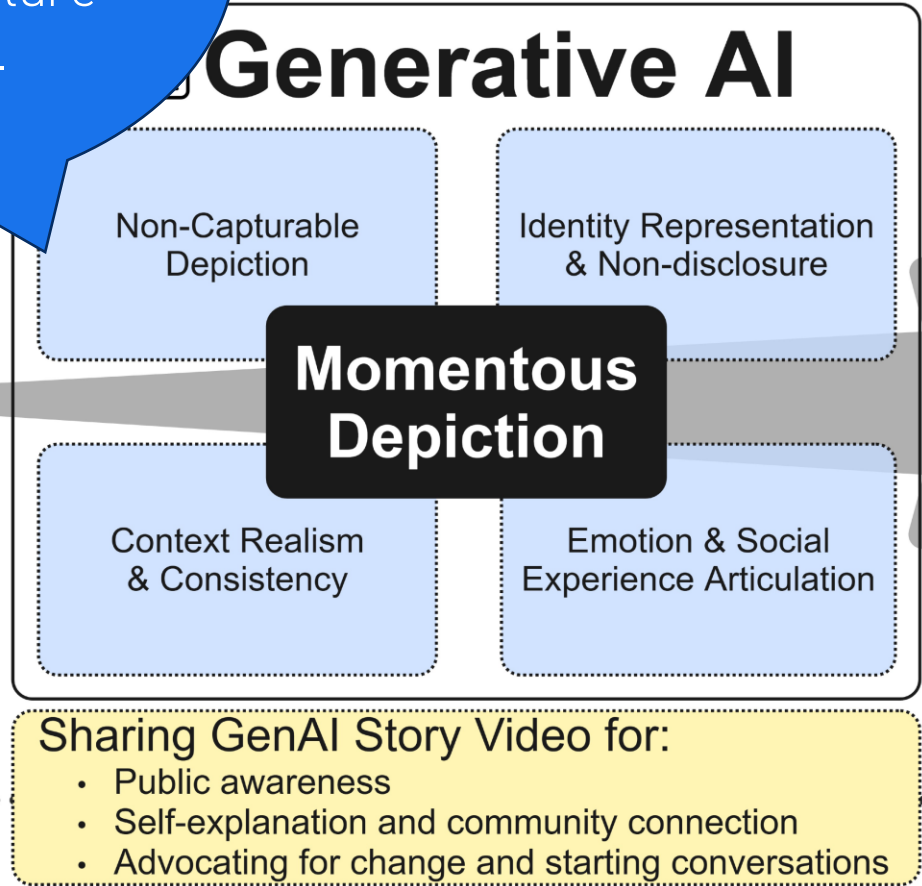
- Roughly half (5/9) would share with close networks
- Used to explain **experiences** and highlight **accessibility needs**
- Supports **understanding** and **community** building

Framework of Momentous Depiction



Framework of Momentous Depiction

GenAI affords the depiction of moments that are difficult to capture in real life.



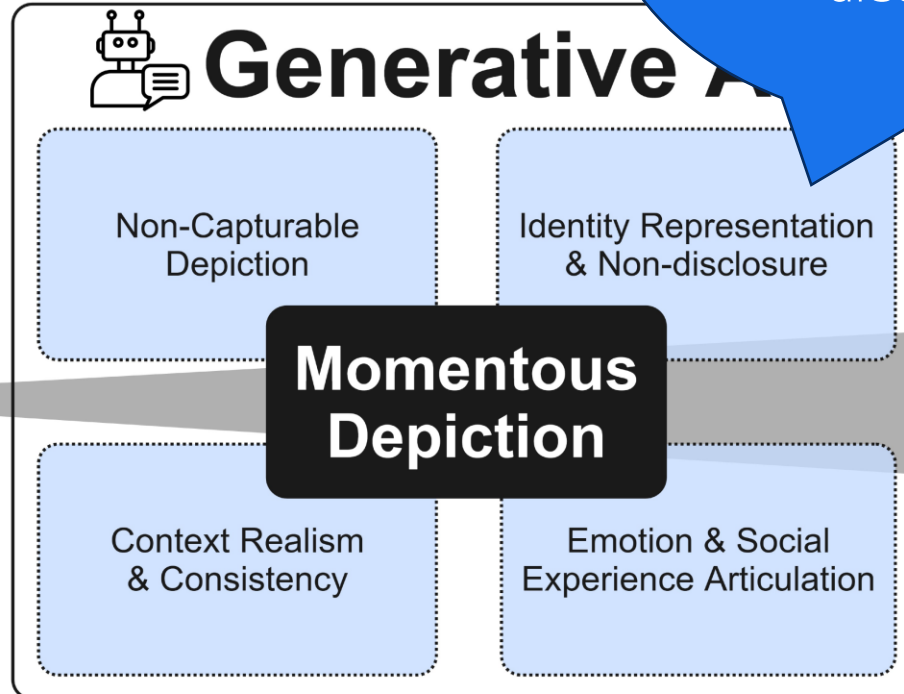
Disability Storytelling Video



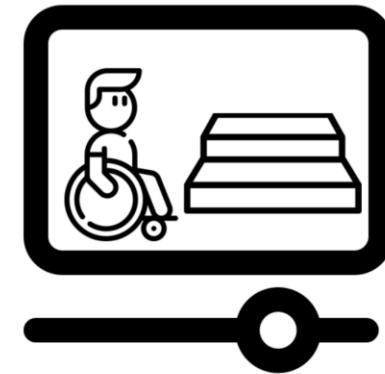
Framework of Momentous

GenAI affords the expression of identity without personal disclosure.

People with Disability



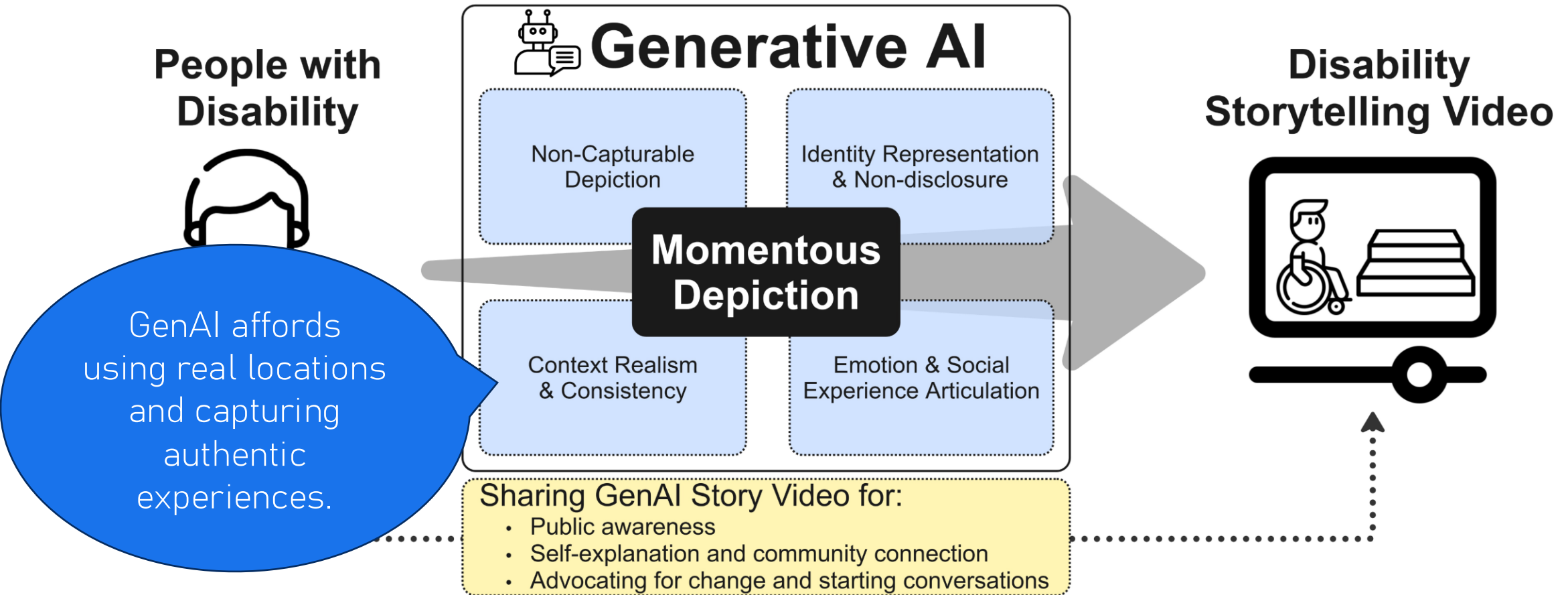
Disability Storytelling Video



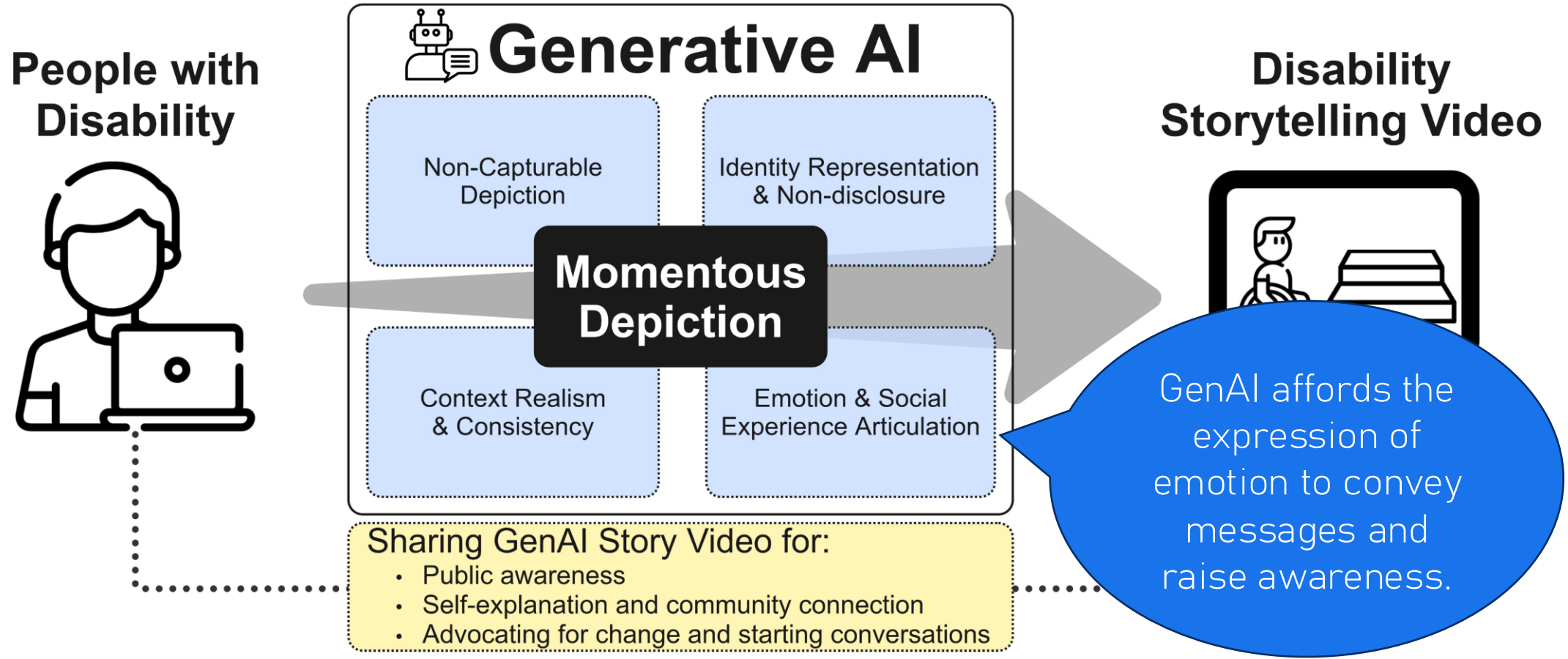
Sharing GenAI Story Video for:

- Public awareness
- Self-explanation and community connection
- Advocating for change and starting conversations

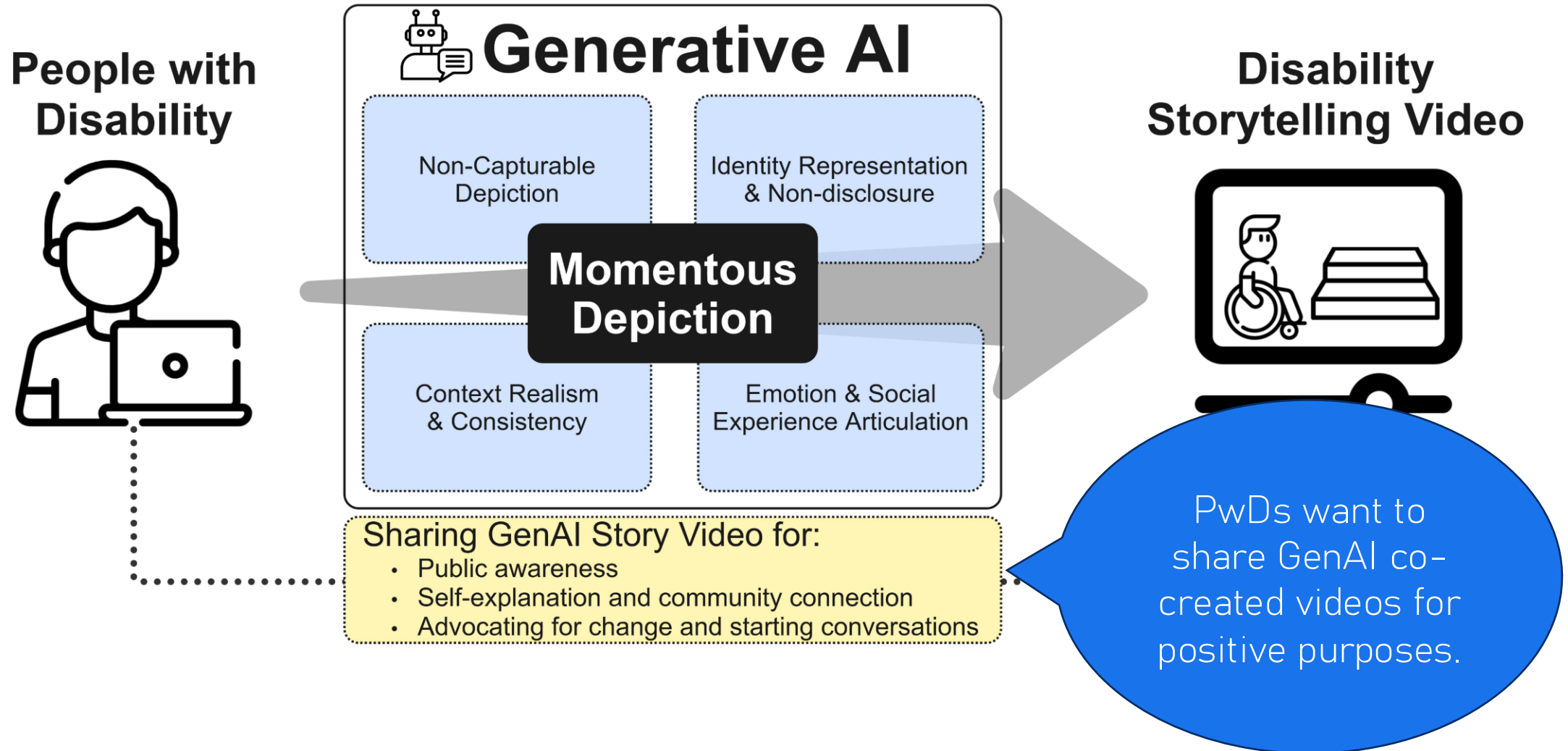
Framework of Momentous Depiction



Framework of Momentous Depiction



Framework of Momentous Depiction



Incorporating GenAI Affordances for Story Completion

- Prioritize **PwDs' autonomy** in creating stories of their own lives by **providing supporting details**, not automating the whole story creation process
- Support adjustment of story elements so they **align with intended narratives**. GenAI must depict not only what people do, but also what they cannot do (e.g., being unable to walk up stairs).
- Facilitate prompt construction through structured **guidance** and illustrative **examples** that foster users' **imagination**.

Incorporating GenAI Affordances as a New Identity-Concealing Media Format.

- Use GenAI-generated media as a **story visualizer** that scaffolds PwDs' expression of experiences while enabling them to conceal **personal information**.
- However, GenAI's **limitations** in **accurately profiling** PwDs and **presenting correct assistive technologies** must be addressed to enhance depiction of authentic disability experiences.
- Viewers often perceive GenAI content as **lower quality**, prompting social media platforms to **restrict AI use** and introduce labels to flag such content.
- Platforms should **reconsider** how the visibility of PwDs' GenAI content is managed so that these narratives are not **unfairly suppressed**.

Designing GenAI Affordances as an Imperfection Corrector

- Guide PwDs in recognizing and correcting **biased representations**, **incorrect logics**, and **inconsistencies**.
- To advance inclusive storytelling, we call on AI researchers to **collaborate** with **disability communities** to establish standards for how different disabilities should be profiled by GenAI.
- Allow users to **persist character traits**, **clothing**, and **environmental settings** across scenes.
- Ensure **coherence** of story materials across multiple outputs.

Takeaways

Story Completion: co-create, tools should support completion, not automate.

Identity-Concealing: support sharing identity and experiences without disclosing personal information.

Imperfection Correcting: guide correcting of biases by PwDs and minimize inconsistencies.



Thank you!

