

## ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT



### Rationale:

For this assignment, students will research and analyze a related series of at least three objects that represent disability in public. In completing this assignment, you will deploy strategies to investigate particular issues of cultural, political, scientific, educational, or artistic significance in the U.S. that pertain to the design of objects and the bodies that are presumed to interact with them—namely how accessibility and representations of disability play a part in the use or consumption of these objects. Such objects might include disability logos, television shows, news stories, assistive devices, experiments, buildings, texts, blueprints, public spaces, internet sites, art installations, etc. Though you are free to select any combination of objects for your analysis, you will be required to identify their relation in your analysis and so I suggest you select objects within the same (or closely related) genre(s).

Furthermore, this project will be multimodal, meaning you will incorporate and rhetorically deploy text, images, audio, and/or video to utilize effective and accessible means of appeal to your audience. This project may take the shape of a primarily alphabetic text that incorporates multimedia (such as a blog post, a whitepaper, academic essay with figures, etc.) or utilize primarily aural/visual media (such as in a podcast episode, PSA video, music video, documentary short, etc.). We will have time to explore some of these options in class, and you are always welcome to run an idea for this project by me.

Your accessibility project will be shared in class during peer review, and this assignment and your analysis can be further developed as you continue into composing your final research project.

## Overview:

At this stage in the course, you have already been thinking about how objects interact with bodies in constructed space. You have even chosen at least two possible primary sources that could be analyzed based on their accessibility and written a paragraph summarizing one of these objects. Now, your task will be to find a number of related objects and write a focused analysis (or create a multimodal response) on the accessibility of these objects and the relationships the designers of these objects presume about the bodies with which they interact. This will be the bulk of the research you do on primary sources throughout the semester.

Below you will find a list of objectives for this assignment. Be sure to follow the directions outlined in **Completing the Assignment** carefully and to consult our textbooks and in-class notes for examples that may influence the shape your accessibility project might take. In other words, the *form* of this project will be an important decision you will need to make in addition to the *content* that you create for this project.

## Objectives:

- Locate, retrieve, and critically analyze primary sources relevant to a question, topic, or issue;
- Make connections between readings, discussions, and writing;
- Draft, edit, and revise representative forms of academic writing in response to reading, analysis, discussion, and informal writing, and through written and oral feedback from the instructor and peers
- Use reading and writing for inquiry, learning, thinking, and communicating
- Use various critical thinking strategies to analyze texts
- Find and evaluate appropriate material from electronic and other sources
- Juxtapose and integrate ideas and arguments from sources
- Utilize both medical and social frameworks of disability to analyze accessibility of text

## Getting Started:

- Make sure you understand the meaning of analysis; according to the authors of *Writing Analytically*, analysis is “a form of detective work that typically pursues something puzzling, something you are seeking to understand rather than something you believe you already have the answers to” (2-3). Andrea Lunsford us into analysis through asking a series of questions (called a heuristic) in *Writing in Action* on pages 106-109. Consider it your job to attempt to define and explain what you see in your primary source. Rather than just answering the question, “What is here?” think about why and how the source uses particular details to communicate something to an audience.
- Remember that this analysis **should not be a list**. Instead of describing everything about the primary source, focus on the most important aspects of your source and begin to interpret it by ascribing meaning to these details.
- You may find it helpful to begin with your objects or a framework. Remember the frameworks we have studied in class, and if you’re struggling to find objects to analyze, chose a framework that interests you and find objects that could be analyzed given that framework.

- Alternatively, you may have a series of objects already in mind to analyze. If you start here, be sure you articulate a common theme or lens that unifies your analysis of these objects.

### **Completing the Assignment:**

Because this assignment is fairly open ended, I've provided a list of things here that I will be looking for as I assess your project. Keep in mind that these are bare minimum requirements for the project, and that I do expect you to develop meaningful analysis beyond this list, but the form that "meaningfulness" will take is entirely dependent upon your work.

1. Identify basic information about the objects you have chosen. What are they? Where did they come from? Who made them (if you know)? How are they connected?
2. Include commentary on the accessibility of these objects. How accessible are they? How are you measuring their accessibility? Whose bodies were in mind as the objects were made/crafted/placed in their current position? What influence does outside bodies/environment have on their public consumption?
3. Include appropriate, genre-specific citation for your objects and any other sources you chose to include.
4. In some way, articulate why you've selected the form your project has taken. How does your form best attend to your audience? How does it help further your argument and analysis? If you have selected something (such as a podcast, or other form that would not be appropriate to include this information), include a short (250-500 word) artist statement.

This assignment is due in the Carmen dropbox named **Accessibility Project** by **Tuesday, October 27 at 2:20 pm** (the start of class).