Assignment #3:   
COMMUNITY ACCESSIBILITY EVALUATION

**10 points**

As we have discussed in class, there are many ways to make our community more inclusive and accessible. Unfortunately, accessibility is often an afterthought in the engineering, design, and building process of community environments. This results in the exclusion of people with disabilities in life activities that non-disabled people take for granted. The hope with this assignment is to open your eyes to the ways that our community can be accessible and inaccessible for people with disabilities, and the ways that we can be proactive in ensuring that accessibility features are present within our communities. (Remember: Accessibility is not only for those with visible disabilities but also for invisible disabilities such as heart conditions, anxiety disorders, etc.)

**Examples of places you may evaluate:**

* Places of worship
* Public events
* Public buildings
* Local businesses
* Tourist areas
* Public parks and walkways

**Required Format**

* Microsoft Word format ONLY
* 3 pages of question/answer text; 1 page of photos; another page with a photo and explanation (see #s 5 and 6 below for details)
* Responses must be in essay/paragraph format underneath respective points/questions
* 1” margins
* 12-point font
* Double-spaced

**For this assignment, you will respond to all of the following points or questions on the topic of accessibility in the community:**

1. Name and location of the public place you are evaluating. Give a paragraph description of the location. (1 pt)
2. Is it accessible to some people with disabilities more than others? If so, which group of people is it more accessible to? And which group of people with disabilities is it not accessible to? Explain why you have come to this conclusion. (2 pts)
3. If you could make this location more accessible what would you change, include, remove, or alter? Explain how and why. (2 pts)
4. What are some features/qualities in this location that make it accessible? What barriers exist in this location that makes accessibility more challenging? Are the features/qualities and barriers man-made in the current moment? Or are they part of the initial design? Explain. (2 pts)
5. Pictures are not included in your 3-page count and must be placed on the fourth page of your paper. You must include 4 pictures on page 4. **At least one picture should include you** (or a representation of you). **Pictures must be taken by you** (not acquired on the internet or by other means). (1 pt)
6. On page 5, add a photo of and a paragraph describing a real place that has excellent accessibility features. The photo may be acquired in person or on the internet. However, you must include a paragraph explaining why you believe that this place is fully accessible. Be sure to do ample research to ensure that this place is actually designed for full accessibility. (2 pts)

**The following considerations will benefit your evaluation and will contribute to a higher grade on this assignment. Things to consider as you answer the above questions:**

* Can a person who uses a wheelchair access all of the same areas that a nondisabled individual can access?
* Are accessible alternatives clearly and visibly marked?
* Are elevators and lifts in working order wherever there are stairs?
* Are ramps located and angled in such a way that it is not overly burdensome for someone who uses a wheelchair to maneuver to them and on them?
* Are the accessible alternatives comparable in distance such that the person using a wheelchair does not need to go far out of their way to arrive at the destination?
* Are signs readable in Braille for people who are blind?
* Are audio cues available for people who are blind (such as crosswalks)?
* Are sign language interpretation and/or closed or open captioning available for any audio or video features?
* Are there enough accessible parking spots and are they actually accessible? If they are not accessible, is it because someone is parked in them illegally? Has someone put shopping carts or scooters or other obstacles in the spots? Or are they designed poorly, making them inaccessible?
* Are there enough accessible walkways, curb cuts, and other accessibility features? If they are not accessible, is it because someone has blocked them/created barriers? Or is it due to poor design?
* Do accessibility features that benefit people with disabilities also benefit those who do not have disabilities? If so, how?