

# UT Rhetoric Onramps Summer Reading 2020-2021

This year's first semester topic for Onramps Rhetoric will be access and ability. This allows you to engage with issues in diverse arenas including, but not limited to, education, sports and politics in America. These must be American based articles only. In order to become knowledgeable on the various issues, you will select a minimum of two articles to read during the summer from different venues and different perspectives and write two independent summaries on them that include the writer's overall claim, his/her points that connect to the claim, and the evidence he/she uses. Be sure to include parenthetical citations by paragraphs such as (par. 2). Since first semester college assignments are built around the umbrella topic of access and ability, it is important to find some aspect or angle of the topic that you are passionate about and on which you are willing to spend time researching and writing. It is also crucial that you become knowledgeable on the controversies, what is at stake, and who are the players involved. Our second semester topic is always on race, gender, and identity in America. You can pick any topic that you are interested in studying and researching. It would be wise to spend some time thinking about what topic you might want to work with. Some topics that have been written about before include: police brutality in America, the me too movement, transracial identities, gender wage gap, cultural appropriation, etc.

## **Assignment:**

Please select two articles to read from the links below that interest you. You are also free to find other articles from credible online newspapers and magazines and use those articles. If you do, be sure to attach the article and its link on your google doc. Read them critically and explore some of the following questions (below in Think/Write About) in notes/annotations/responses for each article in google docs. You can use any format for your notes, but they must demonstrate that you are actively reading and critically analyzing the issues in the articles. Next write two individual summaries of each article (no more than 250 words) with parenthetical citations and textual evidence from the article.

## **Think/Write About:**

- What claim or point does the writer attempt to make in the article?
- What is the controversy?
- What is the controversy over? (Money, safety, protection, ethics, etc.).
- Who are the stakeholders? In other words, who are all the different people, groups, or players who have something to gain or lose in this controversy?
- Where do you fall on the controversy? What are your thoughts on the issue?

## **Potential Articles for Reading:**

Kritz, Fran. "How Grocery Shopping Online Could Help Close Equity Gaps." *California Health Report*, 2020.

<https://www.calhealthreport.org/2020/06/08/how-grocery-shopping-online-could-help-close-equity-gaps/>

Millhiser, Ian. "Texas's Election Law Could Disenfranchise Millions During a Pandemic." *Vox*, 4 Apr. 2020, <https://www.vox.com/2020/4/4/21204571/texas-election-law-disenfranchise-millions-pandemic-coronavirus-absentee-ballots>

Oneal, Lonnae. "In the Era of COVID-19, Access to Youth Sports Hangs in the Balance." *The Undefeated*, May 7 2020. <https://theundefeated.com/features/in-the-era-of-covid-19-access-to-youth-sports-hangs-in-the-balance/>

Salame, Richard. "Texas Closes Thousands of Polling Sites, Making it Harder for Minorities to Vote." *The Guardian*, 2 Mar. 2020 <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/mar/02/texas-polling-sites-closures-voting>

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Ura, Alexa. "Federal Appeals Court Temporarily Blocks Voting-by-Mail Expansion in Texas." *The Texas Tribune*, 20 May 2020. <https://www.texastribune.org/2020/05/20/federal-appeals-court-temporarily-blocks-voting-mail-expansion-texas/>

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

**If you find yourself with extra time and want to sharpen your skills for this course, you can try the following activity that will help you develop your ability to type quickly for Onramps assignments.**

#### 1). Touch Typing

Students in the RHE306/309K sequence will be required to use computers to type assignments on a daily basis. Students who can type without looking have a speed advantage when drafting college-level essays (4-6 pages long). Level the playing field for your students by encouraging them to use a free on-line training to familiarize themselves with touch typing techniques.

**Free online Typing Tutor** <https://www.speedtypingonline.com/typing-tutor>

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)