

## Writing Reflection: Sitting Pretty

This semester, reading *Sitting Pretty* by Rebekah Taussig really opened my eyes to what accessibility means and how it affects people with disabilities every day. Before this class, I didn't think much about how buildings or public spaces could make people feel excluded. I had always thought that, by now, anywhere and everywhere is accessible. The book helped me understand that accessibility is about more than just ramps, it's about making sure people with all kinds of disabilities can fully participate and feel welcome.

One big example I saw this semester was the BAL building at ODU. For my Full Access Audit, I looked at how easy or hard it would be for someone with a disability to use that building. I noticed a lot of problems: some doors weren't automatic, there were no clear signs for accessible paths, small elevators, emergency systems or signs aren't visible, etc. If someone was using a wheelchair or had vision issues, getting around BAL would be stressful and frustrating. This made me realize that a lot of buildings are not designed with everyone in mind, and it's a serious issue that needs more attention.

The book *Sitting Pretty* made these problems feel more real because Rebekah did share her personal stories. She talked about how hard it can be just to enter a building or use a public restroom, and I saw those same struggles at ODU. Her writing helped me understand that people with disabilities are often treated like an afterthought when spaces are designed.

This class also helped me grow as a writer. At first, I only focused on making sure my grammar was correct. Now I've learned how to think about the deeper message of my writing and how it can impact others. I want my writing to help bring awareness to problems like inaccessibility, and this class gave me the tools to do that.

Overall, I learned that disability justice means including everyone from the start, not just making small fixes later. Whether it's writing a paper or designing a building, we need to think about people with disabilities every step of the way. This class has made me a more thoughtful writer and a more aware person.