The first assignment in this category is an overview of information, communication, and technology challenges that people with tactile disabilities encounter. This assignment was our largest assignment for the course on accessibility. The presentation begins with an overview of the different scenarios in which people with tactile disabilities find obstacles with, such as different home appliances like television remotes, temperature control, using telephones, using oven or microwave dials, working with copiers, or even inaccessible ways to vote. My group chose to highlight the way tactile disabilities impact someone's everyday life from the way household appliances and public spaces are not designed to meet a diversity of needs. We chose to specifically highlight the inaccessibility of voter registration polls to show how people with a high need for voting for more inclusive policy and change are often unable to do so. Understanding how to meet the needs of a diverse patron population is essential to upholding accessibility as a core value of librarianship. Part of the curriculum for this course involved learning about stigmas related to this group and how spaces are built without their specific abilities in mind. Through this project, I learned more about what tactile disabilities are: disabilities where the individual has challenges grasping, lifting or carrying, pushing or pulling, walking, bending, or many tasks that require fine motor skills. For example, many computer mice that are in public facilities might pose as inoperable due to the way it has to be grasped to complete the task. This class and assignment taught us how to research these disabilities and understand how to speak with and provide service to patrons with diverse capabilities, which is necessary to providing equal access and information for all.

The next assignment I have included in this category is a presentation of research that could theoretically be given at a conference along with a research poster. This assignment was part of the work we did in our research methods class that would prepare us for articulating

research questions, using the current literature to guide us, and eventually coming out with a research methodology, presentation, and conference-style poster. I chose to do my theoretical research on the role that libraries play in first generation student success. In this presentation, I defend how the subject is relevant to the profession by citing the positive impact library usage and outreach has on student success combined with how a student's background can influence their success. The research shows that first generation college students face barriers to their success that may be different from the normative college experience, such as feeling marginalized, not having a strong mentorship in the college environment, total lack of familiarity with the college environment, and that financial stressors and lack of advisement can lead to poor retention. This presentation shows programs that several institutions have created to both meet the individualized needs of first generation college students while also taking advantage of the strengths that they have. The argument, here, is that targeted initiatives are needed to support first generation college students and the library has the opportunity to do so given the correlation between library usage and student academic success. Because first generation college students are often students from diverse and historically marginalized communities, having targeted outreach toward this group is a way make a diverse population feel a sense of belonging in their current environment and that library professionals do not exclude diverse groups in their work.