



Rethinking Campus Accessibility: Customs Week Tours at Haverford College

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Inspiration – Jay Dolmage

- Academia is structurally designed around an “ideal” able-bodied student.
- Accessibility is treated as accommodation, not design.
- Exclusion is often normalized.

Project Motivation

- Experience with a Customs student who uses a wheelchair
- Uneven routes and inaccessible entrances
- Adjustments felt reactive

Main Research Question

What would it look like if Customs Week tours were designed with accessibility as the starting point—not the afterthought?



Project Structure

Part 1: Analytical Paper

- Apply Dolmage's concept of structural ableism
- Analyze campus tours as ritual

Part 2: Accessibility Proposal

- Step-by-step redesign plan

Proposed Structural Changes

- **Pre-map accessible routes**
- **Clearly label ramps & elevators**
- **Design one universal route**



Additional Improvements

- **Built-in rest stops**
- **Normalize slower pacing**
- **Leader training**
- **Alternative formats (virtual map/tour)**

Why This Matters

- **Tours are symbolic**
- **First impression of belonging**
- **Accessibility = structural inclusion**

Questions & Feedback

- **How critical should I be?**
- **Should I expand beyond mobility?**
- **How ambitious vs. realistic should this be?**

Thank you!