Overview
This composition course will focus on affordability and accessibility in Seattle. We will approach these issues from the perspective of housing and public transportation. Longtime renters and homeowners cannot afford to remain in their current communities, parking is harder to find, and in the wake of the passing of Proposition 1/Sound Transit 3, transportation has become a prominent issue for current and future citizens alike. This class will potentially bolster students’ skills in rhetorical/spatial awareness and reinforce critical reflection on the topics at hand, my hope is that students will help solve these complex problems. After all, it is increasingly crucial to study changes in zoning regulations, infrastructure and its legislation, and public/private transportation because these things are an inescapable part of living in Seattle.

Role of Service-Learning in the Course
This course will blend the EWP Outcomes necessary to academic writing with community service and engagement with organizations that oversee zoning regulation, housing, and are in favor of (better) public transportation. Students will volunteer for 20 to 40 hours throughout the quarter and it is my hope that they’ll use skills and concepts from class to find interdisciplinary solutions to further the goals of the organization. In other words, service-orientated learning will allow them to become more active citizens and use their writing to mitigate and/or solve real-world problems.

Assignments Related to Service-Learning
Every assignment will emphasize the utility and transferability of the EWP Writing Outcomes in real-world contexts thus service-learning will be the catalyst for drawing such connections. An ongoing blog will be maintained, in which the students will describe their transportation to and from their service-assignment locations. The first assignment will be to analyze the space of their service-learning location. The second assignment will be an op-ed piece written for Husky Daily that sheds further light on both the issue and efforts of the organization. For the first major paper, students will conduct a genre exercise in which they translate their rhetorical/spatial analysis into an advertisement for their organization, which can either be a poster or a webpage. The third short assignment will be to create a brochure of their business’ interest that might increase exposure to their cause. The next assignment will be an annotated bibliography to prepare their research for the next project. The second major paper will be an academic essay built from research about other cities that have similar issues and their attempts to solve said problems.