

## TAYLOR WAITS

Writer, Creative, and Educator

Phone: (202) 285-6459

Taylor.waits01@gmail.com

### EDUCATION

---

**BA** University of Texas at San Antonio, Communication May 2019  
Minor in Linguistics  
Honors

**PhD Student** University of Pittsburgh, Expected Date: May 2025  
English (Composition and Rhetoric)  
Critical Studies Concentration

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

My research interest is in Critical Literacies and Pedagogies, Black Feminisms, and Digital Rhetorics. I also have an interest in social media and storytelling via filmmaking, book writing, and podcasting.

**Immersive Summer Fellowship** May 2021 - August 2021  
**Summer Research Assistant**, Taylor Waits  
Taylor Waits (English) will support the research, development, and implementation of trainings related to current curriculum and instruction trends in K-12 education and anti-racism and use her digital storytelling and social media experience to develop educational collateral with Single Seed Enrichment School.

**Radical Monarchs and University of Pittsburgh** May 2020 - August 2020  
**Summer Research Assistant**, Taylor Waits  
As a part of the Humanities Engage Summer Intensive Program, doctoral students were paired with nonprofit organizations to assist in research and data collection projects. While working with Radical Monarchs I was tasked in developing a data collection framework of young girls' stories about radicalism using Google Suite (Excel, Calendar) and Asana.

**University of Texas at San Antonio**, Honors Thesis 2018-2019  
**Main Investigator**, Taylor Waits  
*"Self-Perceptions Of Black Teens In AP English Literature Courses And How Muted Group Theory Can Help Us Understand How To Teach Them Better."*  
This project looks at muted group theory, rhetorical silence, and the self-perceptions of Black high school senior students in AP English Literature courses.

**University of Texas at San Antonio** Summer 2018  
**Research Assistant**, Dr. Sonja Lanehart  
*"Title: In progress"* This project examines the language and uses of African-American Vernacular in African-American, second-generation African, and African-Latinx high school

and college undergraduate students. I was tasked with conducting 60 interviews across Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and New Orleans, Louisiana. I then coded and transcribed all of the interviews for qualitative data tests in 12 weeks.

**University of Texas at San Antonio, Location** 2017-2018  
**Main Investigator, Taylor Waits**

*“Rhetorical Silence and Rhetorical Listening: Taking a look at the effectiveness of diversity rhetoric on members of culturally-relevant student organizations.”* This research examines the effectiveness of diversity flyers, and posters on students of color who are involved in student organizations that pride diversity, inclusion, and respecting differences in their mission and values. I distributed an online survey with 25 participants and created 4 digital visuals of data.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

Based on my teaching experiences, I believe in focusing on competency-based models, student-set goals, and hands-on learning methods to teach. I believe in challenging the Western epistemologies to find other ways of gathering knowledge that will work for students with a wide array of learning styles.

**First Year Writing Instructor, University of Pittsburgh** August 2021 – Present

- Teach up to 20 first-year university students in first year writing.
- Class Description: To essay is to try, attempt, experiment. In this course, you will experiment with your writing to create a semester-long inquiry about a topic that you feel is urgent to you. Each attempt will move you deeper into this inquiry, so that you not only want to know more about the subject (hopefully) but also feel inspired to create/write/express more. Through your attempts you will understand how to make observations and launch questions; interpret visual artifacts; synthesize your previous findings and analyze discovery; and persuade a public audience to see the urgency of your subject. In our class community, you will work as a team reading, watching, interacting and responding to one another’s drafts, and supporting each other throughout the journey. Collaborate with national partners for city and statewide trainings, memos, and reports.

**Co-Founder and Program Director, [#changerapeculture](#)** October 2019 – Present

- Teach up to 200 community members of all ages on consent, body autonomy, rape culture, and holistic wellness through art workshops.
- Collaborate with national partners for city and statewide trainings, memos, and reports.

**Arts Education Coordinator, ACH Passport Academy**  
**COVID School Site/After School Program** January 2021 – Present

- Teach up to 25 students (ages 4 – 11) song writing, writing exercises, musicmaking, photography, and videomaking
- Create lesson plans with measured outcomes for every meeting

- Work with Arts Education Manager to coordinate Teaching Artists schedules and lessons

**Co-Teacher** , Homewood Children’s Village HYPE

Afterschool Program

August 2019 – May 2020

- Teach up to 15 Black high school girls podcasting, social media management, and blog entry making
- Create extended lesson plans with scaled educational goals dependent on funders
- Write 5 - page reflection summaries weekly about student progress, program needs, and areas for improvement

**2-7 Grade Tutor**, Single Seed Enrichment Program

March 2018 – May 2019

- Tutored 2-7 grade math and language arts
- Offered homework help to students enrolled in public schools
- Help create competency models for students enrolled in both tutoring help and the homeschool curriculum
- Coordinated group classes on frequently missed TEKS concepts
- Given a year to deliver a report, a teaching statement on my two students, and qualitative data on the reading, writing, and math improvements

**PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES**

---

**Panelist**, “AIMS Gender and Sexual Orientation Diversity Conference KeyNote: Building Our Queer Futures.” Association of Independent Maryland & DC Schools; Zoom; March 10, 2021.

**Workshop Presenter**, “Black Gold: Radiance through Radical Self-Care” New Voices for Reproductive Justice Women’s Herstory Month Event; Zoom; March 9, 2021.

**Panelist**, “Shattering the Statistics: A Collective Effort Towards Ending Sexual Violence.” University of Pittsburgh Sexual Violence and Prevention Education Office; Zoom; December 2020.

**Panelist**, “Centering LGBTQ+ Survivors’ Narratives: A conversation with Lexie Bean” Carlow University Social Justice Institutes Office; Zoom; November 2020.

**Workshop Presenter**, “Black Feminine Rage & #ChangeRapeCulture” 2020 TAASA Annual Conference: *Lift Every Voice*; Zoom/Houston, TX; August 2020.

**Paper Presentation**, “*Circuits of Agency and Black Fem Rage*,” with Kimiya Factory, University of Texas at San Antonio. 2019 Reflecting Black Symposium, Houston, Texas; October 2019

**Paper Presentation**, “*Looking Back to Move Forward: #cancelled.*” 2019 Reflecting Black Symposium, Houston, Texas; October 2019

**Attendee**, 2019 Justice for Black Girls National Conference, Harlem, New York; October 2019.

**Paper Presentation**, “*Rhetorical Silence and Rhetorical Listening: Taking a look at the effectiveness of diversity rhetoric on members of culturally-relevant student organizations.*” 2018 Rhetoric Society of America National Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota; June 2018.

**Panelist**, “Imagining Black Feminist Futures: Afrofuturisms, Black Utopias, and Sonic Rhetorics,” National Women’s Studies Association National Conference, Atlanta, Georgia; November 2018.

**Paper Presentation**, “*Self-Perceptions Of Black Teens In AP English Literature Courses And How Muted Group Theory Can Help Us Understand How To Teach Them Better.*” 2019 National Conferences of NAAAS, NAHLS, NANAS, & IAAS; February 2019.

**Poster Presentation**, “*University Mission Statements and Whiteness*” 5<sup>th</sup> Place Undergraduate Poster Winner. 2019 UTSA COLFA Undergraduate Research Conference; March 2019

**Paper Presentation**, “*University Mission Statements and Whiteness.*” 2019 Communicating Diversity Conference, College Station, Texas; March 2019.

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

---

<b>Allies for Health and Wellbeing’s 2022 Bright Young People</b>	2022
<b>UTSA Presidential Diversity Award – Student</b>	2019
<b>UTSA Honors College Summer Research Scholarship</b>	2018
<b>UTSA Honors College Jacqueline Beretta Scholarship</b>	2018
<b>Dean of Students Outstanding Leadership Award</b>	August 2018
<b>UTSA Mellon Humanities Fellowship</b>	2017-2018
<b>Dean’s List</b>	Spring 2017, Fall 2016

<b>Most Outstanding Honors Student</b>	2017
<b>Jane Findling (Legacy) Award</b>	2017
<b>Betty Murray Halff Endowed Scholarship</b>	2017
<b>Most Outstanding COLFA Undergraduate Student</b>	2017
<b>Family Association Scholarship</b>	2016
<b>President's List</b>	Fall 2015

### **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

---

**Professional Writing and Rhetoric Certification**  
University of Texas at San Antonio, May 2019

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

---

National Council of Teachers of English, 2019-Present

Rhetoric Society of America, 2018-Present

National Women's Studies Association, 2018-Present

### **SERVICE**

---

**Center for Creativity** **August 2020 – May 2021**

- Resident Graduate Assistant; coordinator of BeSpoke spoken word multimedia initiative, Monthly Open Mic series, and *TextInContext* select writing workshop coordinator.
- Develop grant compiling system using Microsoft Teams, Slack, Google Forms, Google Documents and Google Drive
- Posting regularly and maintaining social media presence on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram
- Answer emails and attend to technical or administrative issues in real-time

**English Graduate Student Organizations** **August 2020 -**

- Resident Graduate Intern; coordinator of general social media, and administrator/coordinator of Virtual Writing Group
- Develop weekly webpages using Google Sites, Padlet, Google Forms, Google Documents and Google Drive
- Posting regularly and maintaining social media presence on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram
- Answer emails and attend to technical or administrative issues in real-time

## **Digital Black Literacies and Composition**

**August 2019 – August 2020**

- Resident Graduate Intern; coordinator of general social media, and administrator/coordinator of Virtual Writing Group
- Develop weekly webpages using Google Sites, Padlet, Google Forms, Google Documents and Google Drive
- Posting regularly and maintaining social media presence on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram
- Answer emails and attend to technical or administrative issues in real-time

## **#CHANGERAPECULTURE**

**2018 -**

- Co-founder; #CRCPGH Director of Operations,
- Coordinator of Afternoon of Play, Set Yourself Free Sundays, and #OpenYourPurse Digital Drag Show
- Developed framework for national chapter operations

## **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People**

**2017- 2019**

- External Vice President; point of contact for all externa; paperwork and events
- Organize meetings and coordinating events for up to 140 participants
- Coordinate campus wide events to spread awareness, and strengthen community building

## **UTSA Ambassadors**

**2017-2018**

- Committee Chair of Alumni Relations committee; point of contact for coordinating alumni, current Ambassadors, and events
- Organize bi-weekly committee meetings; develop proposals; and preside over meetings
- Working with Steering Committee to create new and efficient events for the campus and Ambassadors alike

## **Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated-Upsilon Upsilon Chapter**

**2017-**

- Internal Vice President & Treasurer; facilitate all membership intake, money transactions, bank account, and fundraising
- Creating fundraising campaigns for chapter efforts to attend national, state, and local conferences
- Organizing chapter events to engage and inform community
- Participating in inter-fraternal coalition building events

## **REFERENCES**

---

**Dr. Sonja Lanehart**, Professor and Brackenridge Endowed Chair of Literature and the Humanities

The University of Arizona

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Department of Linguistic

Communication Bldg. Room 109

Tucson, AZ 85721

TEL 520-621-6897

lanehart@email.arizona.edu

**Dr. Alexis McGee**, Assistant Professor  
School of Journalism, Writing, and Media  
The University of British Columbia  
Ponderosa Office Annex G Room 24  
Email: [armcgee1@ua.edu](mailto:armcgee1@ua.edu)

**Dr. Benjamin Miller**, Assistant Professor  
Department of English  
The University of Pittsburgh  
Email: [millerb@pitt.edu](mailto:millerb@pitt.edu)