**Student Activities – Section 4**

1. Janet Mock and Aleichia Williams both discuss their experiences as biracial women who are often forced to choose one racial identity to inhabit. This occurs not only in interpersonal encounters but also at an institutionalized level. Find forms that you would need to fill out in order to apply for a school, become a new patient at a doctor’s office, get a driver’s license, etc. Read over the forms and see if there is a “race” or “ethnicity” section. Look up the questions asked on the 2020 Census about race and ethnicity. If they do, think about how often you are confronted with those checkboxes that ask you to select only one part of your racial identity. Have you ever noticed this before? Why or why not?
2. Repeat Activity 1, but look at the “sex” or “gender” checkboxes. Are there only 2 options? What if you identify outside the gender binary? What if you are transgender, like Janet Mock? Should you select the sex you were assigned at birth or the gender you identify as? Why might having to face these questions on what seem to be simple forms be harmful to anyone that does not fit neatly into one of these categories?
3. Research the history of forced sterilization in the United States. Do you see it being justified with similar language to No’u Revilla’s lines “old stories / with low body temperatures, low resistance to virus. / Diminishing diminishing.” Could “How to Use a Condom” be alluding to our nation’s eugenics history? Or to control of reproductive freedom that you have studied in this text?