Assistive Technology Solutions for Writing

Carolyn Phillips, Tools for Life

With contributions from Martha Rust, Liz Persaud, Ben Jacobs & Ben Satterfield

www.gatfl.org

For Handouts: http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki

EASI Webinar Series 2015
March 19
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

www.amacusg.org
Technology can help all students achieve academic success! Join us for a webinar focused on assistive technology solutions for writing. Presenters will share some of the basic difficulties individuals with learning disabilities encounter when they are writing and then provide examples of how low, mid and high assistive tech devices are creating solutions. Discussion will focus on specific environments and how these devices assisting people living with various learning disabilities in college. Strategies, solutions, and resources that provide supports will be discussed.

For Handouts: http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki
AMAC Accessibility is a social change organization on a mission to create affordable services for governmental, private and non-profits organization working with individuals with disabilities. Services include e-text, braille, captioning, assistive technology, office management software and consulting.
AMAC creates practical solutions that work, with a focus on utility, ease of use, and high quality.

- **Accessibility Consulting** focuses on organizational accessibility needs with evaluation, technical assistance, customer support, and website accessibility solutions.
- **Braille Services** produces customized projects from both print materials and electronic text including partial books and chapters or graphics only using cutting-edge technology.
- **Captioning Services** makes classrooms, meetings, labs and other audio environments fully accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- **Professional E-Text Producers** provide high-quality e-text in many formats such as PDF, DOC, DAISY, and HTML.
- **Certified Assistive Technology team** provides on-site and remote assessments, demonstrations, training and technical assistance for education, work, and daily living environments.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.amacusg.org](http://www.amacusg.org)
We’re here to help Georgians with disabilities gain access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in the communities of their choice.
TFL AppFinder
Get to Know Your AT Act Program

- http://resnaprojects.org/
Why Assistive Technology?

• For a person without a disability, technology makes things easier.

• For a person with a disability, technology makes things possible.

• TIP: USE AT. I have yet to meet a successful student with disabilities who doesn’t use Any AT.
## What is Assistive Technology?

**Assistive Technology Device**
...any item, piece of equipment or product that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

- Public Law 105-394 [29 USC 2201]

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• apps under $100
Observations & “Hanging out with Intent”

Assistive Technology is a **continuum of tools, strategies, and services** that match a person’s needs, abilities and tasks.

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Moving from Information to Action

Evaluations for Learning Disabilities
- One to one assessment
- Comprehensive battery of tests
- Detailed report with recommendations for support in work and/or learning

- What did You learn in your LD Evaluation?
- Moving from Information to Action
  - Using your Evaluation results as an Action Plan for AT
Dysgraphia

• “A specific learning disability that affects a person’s handwriting ability and fine motor skills.

• Problems may include illegible:
  – handwriting,
  – inconsistent spacing,
  – poor spatial planning on paper,
  – poor spelling, and
  – difficulty composing writing as well as thinking and writing at the same time.”

What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan?

http://ldaamerica.org/types-of-learning-disabilities/
Dyslexia

• A specific learning disability that affects reading and related language-based processing skills. Dyslexia is sometimes referred to as a Language-Based Learning Disability.
• The severity can differ in each individual but can affect:
  – reading
  – fluency,
  – decoding,
  – reading comprehension,
  – recall,
  – writing,
  – spelling, and
  – sometimes speech and can exist along with other related disorders.
• What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan? http://ldaamerica.org/types-of-learning-disabilities/
The “FAST” Track

- Frustration
- Anxiety
- Stress
- Tension
Human Activity Technology (HAAT) Model

- **Human**: represents the skills and abilities of the person with a disability
- **Activity**: a set of tasks to be performed by the person with a disability
- **Context**: the setting or social, cultural and physical contexts that surround the environment in which the activity must be completed
- **Assistive Technology**: devices or strategies used to bridge the gap between the person’s abilities and the demands of the environment

- Developed by Cook & Hussey
The SETT Framework

S = Student/Skills
E = Environment
T = Tasks
T = Tools

Adapted from Joy Zabala  www.joyzabala.com
Ergonomics

- Inhibits blood flow
- Creates muscle shortening
- Stresses back muscles and compresses spine
- Can inhibit learning
- Compresses diaphragm
  - Affects breathing
  - Voice quality
AT Solutions for Writing
Low Tech Solutions

• Built up grips
  – Variety
  – Create your own using tennis balls
• Larger / thicker pencils
• Electronic Spellers
  – Franklin Spellers
Low Tech Solutions - Pens

Writing Solutions:

– “The Penagain takes a novel ergonomic approach to ink pen design. The body of the pen is shaped like a "Y" creating a cradle for the index finger to rest in.”
  http://ergonomics.about.com/od/buyingguide/fr/frpenagain.htm

– Wide barrel pens can make it easier for some people to write due to their contoured shape. With a Fat Ergonomic Pen there’s more surface area to grip which makes it easier to write.
Live Scribe Pen

- Records what it hears and what you write
- Uses specific paper for playback
- Connects to computer by USB for saving
- Tap on note and playback from there
- Jump forward and back in notes
- Dictionary
- Translation Apps
- Purchase Apps online
- Demo
SOME OF OUR FAVORITE APPS!
Universal Design For Learning And Accommodations

### Surface Pro 3

**Portability**
- Surface Pro 3: Weighs a mere 2.4 lbs and is only 0.55” thin with the keyboard attached.
- 13” MacBook Air: Tips the scales at 2.9 lbs and is 0.68” thick.

**Processing Power**
- Surface Pro 3: Choose from Intel® Core™ i3, i5, or i7 processors.
- 13” MacBook Air: Available with Intel® Core™ i5 and i7 processor options.

**Multitasking**
- Surface Pro 3: With Windows 8.1 Pro, you can snap up to 3 apps or desktop programs side by side to multitask with ease.
- 13” MacBook Air: OS X offers no support for snapping 2 apps side by side, but does allow you to multitask.

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Ready to switch? Trade up your MacBook Air for a Surface Pro 3 now.

See offer
iOS 8 – released in 2014

Our smartest keyboard ever.

iOS 8 makes typing easier by suggesting contextually appropriate words to complete your sentences. It even recognizes to whom you’re typing and whether you’re in Mail or Messages. Because your tone in an email may be different from your tone in a message.

Learn more ›
Reading & Writing Software Solutions
Kurzweil 3000

- Text-to-Speech software
- Helps improve reading speed and comprehension
- Note taking capabilities
  - Different color highlighters
- firefly
  - Access many features of Kurzweil through the internet
    - firefly demo
- Free download trial
  - www.kurzweiledu.com
  - Kurzweil 3000 Demo
WYNN

- What You Need Now
- Freedom Scientific
- Scanning and Reading software
- Highlights text as spoken
- Icon friendly
- Built in study tools

- Internet Features
TextHelp

• Text-to-Speech software
• Helps improves reading skills
• Built in text and picture dictionaries
• Study skills highlighter
• Has a Google Chrome version
• www.texthelp.com
Open a webpage within the Chrome Browser
Click on the Read&Write for Google icon to open up the toolbar (click on the icon again to close out the toolbar later)
iReadWrite - For iPads; reading and writing app with word prediction and text to speech - iReadWrite $19.99
Premier Software

- Compose
- Predict
- Create study notes and much more!

- [www.readingmadeez.com](http://www.readingmadeez.com)
Google Now

Introducing Google Now

The right information at just the right time

From knowing the weather before you start your day, to planning the best route to avoid traffic, or even checking your favorite team’s score while they’re playing, Google Now brings you the information you want, when you need it.

Assistance around the clock
Clicker 6

Clicker 6
Literacy without limits!

Clicker 6 is the child-friendly writing tool that enables students of all abilities to significantly develop their literacy skills.
ClaroCom Standard or ClaroCom Pro
Can't decide which app would best suit you? Check out our comparison chart below to help you decide.

ClaroCom (free) is the same as Standard, except it doesn't contain 2 high quality voices (only iOS7 system voices are used) and you can't purchase more voices in-app.
Co:Writer helps students turn this:

I have a dog. It’s name is Rosie. It’s brown. It plays with me. It eats a lot. I like it and my family likes it too.

...into this:

If students can write just 30% of what they want to say, Co:Writer will do the rest. As students write, Co:Writer “predicts” what they’re trying to say and offers word suggestions in real time. Even the most egregious spelling and grammar mistakes aren’t a problem for Co:Writer’s proprietary FlexSpell technology. Co:Writer goes further, bringing in topic-specific vocabulary instantly when writing in the content areas. You have to try it with a student to believe the impact it has!
Ginger

- Online grammar and spell checker
- Can see corrections as you type or use Ginger Proofreader to scan the entire document for mistakes
- Will read corrections out loud
- Has an mobile Android app
- Works inside Word and emails
- Text to Speech
  - Read emails and docs
  - Can choose voice and accent
- Ginger Demo
Voice Input Solutions
Speech Recognition Software

- Turn spoken words into text
- Connect with the timing of your thoughts
- Dictation speed 70 to 100 words per minute
Word Q / Speech Q

- Software that has built-in word prediction
- Suggests words
- Spoken feedback to hear what was written
- Speech Q is a plugin for Speech Recognition

- 30 day free trial
  http://www.goqsoftware.com/trial/
wordQ + speakQ

wordQ is a simple but brilliantly designed writing solution that improves with you, regardless of your age or writing ability.

- Now available, linguistically aligned dictionaries and speech feedback for English, French, and Spanish
- Lets you type the words you know and use voice to text to say the ones you don’t, from single words to entire paragraphs
- Lets you type the words you know and use voice to text to say the ones you don’t, from single words to entire paragraphs
- Speech recognition helps you write everything you say from single words to entire paragraphs
- Offers suggestions for words you have difficulty pronouncing
- Train its voice recognition to understand your voice, with no reading required
- Allows you to mix typing and speaking for best results
- No voice commands to remember

Now, I can write using diff:

1. different
2. difficult
3. difference
4. differences
5. difficulty

Works in English, French, and Spanish.
Inspiration

- Mind Mapping software
- Allows User to “connect” ideas together
- Add in pictures and hyperlinks
- Can produce an outline form

- Better organization of essays
- $39.95
- App $9.99
Inspiration Examples
iHomework

- Keep up-to-date with your school work, grades, to-do's, teacher's information

- School organizer that can be with you anywhere you go, whether that be on your iPhone/iPod touch, iPad, or Mac
Grocery IQ

- Pictorial shopping list
- Customize different lists for different users using pictures on camera roll
- Add your own items and categories
- Assign item prices
- Assign item locations (for example, aisle numbers)
- Several accessibility options
  - text-to-speech
  - uses large easy-to-see images
  - item prices automatically totaled
- $4.99
iMovie

- Share information via Facebook, Twitter, Email, or SMS
- Upload photos
MyMedSchedule

- Keep track of medication
- Reminders
- Refill Reminders
- Healthcare Provider Profiles
- Insurance Information
- Allergies
- Works across Platforms
- Free
- [www.mymedschedule.com](http://www.mymedschedule.com)
What's New In AT and the AT Community:

• Perhaps, Where We Are Going
Nod by Nod, Inc

- Controls devices remotely
- Change presentation slides
- Type notes
- Environmental Control Units

$149, Early 2015

https://hellonod.com/
Amazon Echo

- Speech-controlled speaker system
- Voice recognition - further distances
- Timers, news, information
- Invitation only

$199, $99 Prime members
MINDRDR FOR GOOGLE GLASS LETS YOU TAKE AND SHARE PICTURES JUST BY THINKING
Atomic Learning Tutorials
AMAC membership also provides you with access to Atomic Learning videos. Click on the **Support** Tab in the Student Download Center and click on **Atomic Learning** to access video tutorials on many widely used applications and devices such as Microsoft Office and iOS for iPad and iPhone.
Our Question to You:
What have You Learned today?
## The TFL Team

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**Disclaimer**
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