Increase Accessibility & Inclusion with Read&Write!

Assistive Technology | Universal Design for Learning
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Accessible Technology Coordinator, Miami University

AccessMU Center
The AccessMU Center works to create a more accessible environment by providing information and services to enhance equal access for students with and without disabilities.

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At Texthelp, we see a world where difference, disability and language are no longer barriers.

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Agenda

» Access session resources at text.help/AHEAD2022resources
» Define “Techquity”
» Situate Techquity within UDL
» Demonstrate Read&Write and OrbitNote
» Identify strategies that help learners achieve success regardless of the learning scenario (in-person | hybrid | remote)
» Q&A
Read&Write Offers More Than Just Text to Speech

“Read&Write is a simple yet powerful program that goes above and beyond your standard text-to-speech tool: The easy-to-use toolbar makes documents, files and web pages more accessible. It can help you read independently, comprehend more of what you are reading, see and listen to definitions of unfamiliar words, and highlight important sections. When you are writing, it can help find the words you are looking for, hear and check their spelling, carry out and organize research, and even translate from Spanish or other chosen languages.”
Lower Growth & Achievement

We know literacy & reading performance has a direct impact on graduation rates.

Reading in high school is not quite the same as reading in college.

- Reading & Fluency
- Writing
- Math
- Within your learning resources
What is Techquity?

Technology + Equity = Techquity

The intentional & strategic use of technology to reduce or close the barriers that impact students. So ALL learners can engage, participate & achieve success in the classroom!
Kristine defines techquity as “the magic that happens when educators use technology intentionally to create more equitable opportunities for all students.”

“Techquity doesn’t even start with technology. Instead, we start by looking at our students, and identifying what specific barriers are keeping them from being as successful as possible. Then we can look for tech solutions to help address those needs.”
Techquity and UDL

For Techquity to work, UDL tools should be available for all learners to use as needed each day.

Engagement - Representation - Action & Expression

Centering student voice & choice can make a critical difference in moving the needle for all students.
Places Where Students Work
Are your learning materials accessible for all learners?

1. Can the text be read in a variety of different ways?
2. Can the content be accessed in at least 2 different learning modalities?
3. Can the student use more than one way of responding in order to complete the assignment?

If yes, materials should be accessible to at least 80% of your students!
What Techquity looks like in practice...
UDL Guidelines

The Universal Design for Learning Guidelines

Provide multiple means of Engagement
- Affective Networks
  The “WHY” of Learning

Provide multiple means of Representation
- Recognition Networks
  The “WHAT” of Learning

Provide multiple means of Action & Expression
- Strategic Networks
  The “HOW” of Learning

Provide options for Recruiting Interest
- Optimize individual choice and autonomy
- Optimize relevance, value, and authenticity
- Minimize threats and distractions

Provide options for Perception
- Offer ways of customizing the display of information
- Offer alternatives for auditory information
- Offer alternatives for visual information

Provide options for Physical Action
- Vary the methods for response and navigation
- Optimize access to tools and assistive technologies
What is UDL?
Universal Design for Learning

Differentiated instruction sets you up for success in UDL because it establishes the idea that students may need different things to learn.

UDL allows every student to benefit from multiple means of Engagement, Representation, and Action & Expression.
# UDL vs Differentiated vs Traditional

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UDL (Buffet)</th>
<th>Differentiated Instruction (Short Order Cooking)</th>
<th>Tradition Teaching (Casserole Cooking)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proactive</td>
<td>Proactive</td>
<td>Reactive</td>
<td>Static</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluates environment, classroom, culture</td>
<td>Evaluates the students</td>
<td>Evaluates the curriculum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intentional</td>
<td>Intentional</td>
<td>Cause/Effect</td>
<td>Follows Script</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designs instruction prior to arrival of students</td>
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<td>Retrofits instruction by providing accommodations</td>
<td>Teaches lesson and follows unit as designed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focuses on variability</td>
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<td>Focuses on individual ability</td>
<td>Focuses on the “average” student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plans for the margins</td>
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<td>Modifies to individual margins</td>
<td>Doesn’t consider students in margins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Values variety</td>
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<td>Tries to bring all students into “normal”</td>
<td>Conforms to “normal”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removes barriers</td>
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<td>Works around barriers</td>
<td>Ignores barriers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**UDL (Buffet)**
- Proactive
- Evaluates environment, classroom, culture
- Intentional
- Designs instruction prior to arrival of students
- Focuses on variability
- Plans for the margins
- Values variety
- Removes barriers

**Differentiated Instruction (Short Order Cooking)**
- Reactive
- Evaluates the students
- Cause/Effect
- Retrofits instruction by providing accommodations
- Focuses on individual ability
- Modifies to individual margins
- Tries to bring all students into “normal”
- Works around barriers

**Tradition Teaching (Casserole Cooking)**
- Static
- Evaluates the curriculum
- Follows Script
- Teaches lesson and follows unit as designed
- Focuses on the “average” student
- Doesn’t consider students in margins
- Conforms to “normal”
Read&Write is a literacy support tool that offers help with everyday tasks like reading text out loud, understanding unfamiliar words, researching assignments and proofing written work.
Read Aloud helps me follow along and understand.
Scaffolds

Read&Write provides **needed scaffolds and critical options** that benefit a broad range of struggling learners.
Talk&Type turns the spoken word into text by dictating into a microphone. Allows learners with dyslexia or physical challenges to demonstrate mastery. It also benefits English Learners and students who think faster than they type!
Talking Dictionary

“I don’t need someone to help me with the definition. I can do it myself.”

Access to a variety of higher level tools like the Talking Dictionary help learners independently engage and stay on task!
Word prediction can alleviate writing breakdowns for a range of learners by reducing the number of keystrokes necessary for typing words. Prediction offers word suggestions as you type. Word suggestions are read aloud when you hover over them with your cursor. This tool helps learners connect their speaking vocabulary to their writing vocabulary!
Read&Write offers an extensive list of Text-to-Speech voice options to help support ALL Learners.
Read Aloud Speed

Adjusting the Read Aloud speed helps students develop critical reading skills...

- **Focused** reading = slower reading speed (revising & editing)
- **Skim** reading = faster reading speed
- **Pacing** of information is critical for ELL students & they control speed

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**Reading Comprehension Worksheet**

**Albert Einstein**

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Albert Einstein was born on March 14, 1879 in Ulm, Germany; his father was an electrical engineer, and his mother was a musician. She taught him to music. He didn't speak until he was two years old. When he was six, his father gave him a compass. He was fascinated by the way the needle always pointed north. This experience helped to create a great curiosity in him. He attended a high school called Luitpold Gymnasium Munich. After a year in Italy he went to Zurich, Switzerland. He took a job at the Swiss Patent Office, examining patents for people's inventions. The year 1905 was an exceptional year for Einstein. In that year he published three outstanding papers.
Vocabulary Lists

Students can independently create vocabulary lists using two key tools...

- **Highlighting**
- **Vocabulary Builder**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>life</td>
<td>The state of living, breathing, etc.; Oxygen supports life.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The time from when something is born until it dies; She had a long and happy life.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The activities that make up a person’s life: They have busy lives.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>Concerning two or more countries; International sport.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>from or between other countries; “external commerce”; “International trade”; “developing nations need outside help”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>question</td>
<td>If there is no question of something happening, it is impossible or forbidden; There is no question of us arriving on time.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Something that needs to be discussed: The question of how we are going to get there.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>explore</td>
<td>Travel around somewhere or something and try to find out all about it; They explored the desert in two teams of ten.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inquire into: “The students had to research the history of the Second World War for their history project.” The searched for information on</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Take a virtual trip to the International Space Station

By: Erin Blakemore, Smithsonianmag.com | March 20, 2020

**LEXILE LEVELS**

- 660L
- 830L
- 1050L
- 1230L

What’s life like aboard the International Space Station? This is a question, only a select few can answer. But thanks to a new virtual reality tour, more people than ever can step aboard the floating lab. They can virtually explore the station and its mindboggling views. This is according to

Mashable’s Adario Strange.
Highlighting tools help support **active reading** and also assist with research and organization.
Students use familiar Read&Write tools in OrbitNote to complete and submit PDF assignments with ease!
What is Data Desk?
Data Desk is a dashboard that provides several different tools and reports. This includes managing students’ toolbar features, teacher analytics, site analytics and custom analytics.

- Visit this link to learn more about Data Desk
Techquity is the ongoing way we...

- examine practices
- check our biases
- provide solutions
- EXTEND OPPORTUNITY

- admit imbalance
- identify barriers
- amplify voices/perspectives
- EMPOWER LEARNERS
Questions?
At Texthelp, we see a world where difference, disability and language are no longer barriers.

Helping educators deliver the best possible learning experience for students by leveraging knowledge, innovation and technology across the entire group!
Contact Information

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