Increase Accessibility & Inclusion with Read&Write!

Assistive Technology | Universal Design for Learning

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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/AHEAD2022/resources
- 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!

Video Suggestion

“How techquity can bridge equal opportunity for all students” - Kristine Napper

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

1. G Suite for Education
2. Blackboard
3. D2L
4. Canvas
5. Office 365
6. Cengage
7. Desmos Classroom
8. Respondus
9. Pearson
10. Reading Wonders
11. Khan Academy
12. NWEA
13. Snowflake
14. TextHelp

Are your learning materials accessible for all learners?

Can the text be read in a variety of different ways?

- 1

Can the content be accessed in at least 2 different learning modalities?

- 2

Can the student use more than one way of responding in order to complete the assignment?

- 3

If yes, materials should be accessible to at least 80% of your students!

What Techquity looks like in practice...
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>UDL (Buffet)</th>
<th>Differentiated Instruction (Short Order Cooking)</th>
<th>Traditional Teaching (Casserole Cooking)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intentional</td>
<td>Cause/Effect</td>
<td>Follows Script</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designs instruction prior to arrival of students</td>
<td>Benefits instruction by providing accommodations</td>
<td>Teaches lesson and follows unit as designed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focuses on instability</td>
<td>Focuses on individual ability</td>
<td>Focuses on the “average” student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plans for the margins</td>
<td>Modifies to individual margins</td>
<td>Doesn’t consider students in margins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Values variety</td>
<td>Tries to bring all students into “normal”</td>
<td>Conforms to “normal”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removes barriers</td>
<td>Works around barriers</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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. It 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

“\textit{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

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.

Voice Choices

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
Vocabulary Lists

Students can independently create vocabulary lists using two key tools...
- Highlighting
- Vocabulary Builder

Highlighting Tools

Highlighting tools help support active reading and also assist with research and organization.

OrbitNote PDF

Students use familiar Read&Write tools in OrbitNote to complete and submit PDF assignments with ease!
R&W Google Chrome Toolbar Provides Usage Data

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?
Statement from Texthelp

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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