

12. Assistive Technology Ideas for Writing

STRATEGIES AND MODIFICATIONS	LIGHT-TECH	HIGHER-TECH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend time for assignments/tasks • Reduce or use alternative assignments/tasks • Adjust seating position (90° x 90° x 90°) • Peer “scribe” for note taking or dictation • Seating needs (hearing, seeing, distractibility, noise level, traffic pattern, front/back of room, near teacher or peers, etc.) • Desk (wheelchair accessible, laptop, tilt, flip top desk, lip on side of desk, large table, stand rather than sit, study carrel, etc.) • Reduce clutter on desk • Allow word cards, spelling list, hints, etc. • Allow alternative methods, i.e. oral report • Do not penalize for misspellings, poor writing or grammar on draft • Allow single word or short answers • Give multiple choice tests • Allow either printing or cursive • Use checklists to help get started • Teach and review test-taking vocabulary • Provide models of writing tasks • Lighting adjustments (more/less/direction) • Provide outline/lecture notes beforehand • Provide spelling journals • Brainstorm ideas before beginning to write • Use remnant books for topic setting • Develop idea lists for topic setting • Model using the writing instrument used by student 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pencil grips/holders • Short pencil stub • Pens with different grips • Sentence strips • Straps/splints; “T” holder for pencil • Spinner with parts of story • Eye gaze symbol or alphabet boards • Wrist weight/hold down • Slant board or easel; or use 3” 3-ring binder • Dycem/other material to prevent slippage • Name/number/date/stamps • Magnetic letters and board/cookie sheet • Line indicators (raised line, w/ mid-line, etc) • Sections on paper (draw lines, fold, etc.) • Type of paper (graph, textured, colored, etc.) • Provide extra white spaces • Highlight or color code special words or parts of speech • Put less information on page • High contrast colors • “Post-it” notes for “fill in the blank” tests • Word cards, book, wall or file • Pocket dictionary/thesaurus • Pencil/pen attached to desk • Word/sentence windows • Trace letters/numbers/words with highlighter • Stencils to trace letters • Tactile letters/words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labeler • Electronic/talking dictionary/thesaurus • Digital recorder/voice organizer • Portable note-taker (regular or Braille) • Portable word processor, with or without word prediction, word banks, built-in dictionaries <p>Computer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word processors, w/ or w/o speech feedback • Spelling and grammar checker • Keyguard (with reduced # of keys) • Keyguard (for all keys) • Alternative mouse and/or keyboard • Accessibility Options in Control Panel • Screen/text reader • Word processor “forms” feature • Enlarged or Braille key caps, labels. covers • Screen flasher when sound is emitted • Alternative methods to access keyboard (mouthsticks, headsticks, electronic) • On-screen keyboard • Touch window/screen • Switch control (single or multiple • Utilities to enlarge the cursor, hold Windows open, assist with click/drag, etc. • Voice recognition • Software strategies (word prediction, abbreviation expansion, etc.) • Software for organization and expression • Graphic organizer software • Software for screen magnification • Draw/paint software