

**Technology Tips for Struggling Readers and Writers
2014**

Nichole.Kertis@esc13.txed.net

Link to Handout with Additional Resources: <http://bit.ly/1zTcFpz>

Technology Tips for Struggling Readers and Writers!

Do you need a few more tools and ideas for how to meet the needs of ALL your students, especially those who struggle with reading and writing? In this hands-on workshop we will explore a variety of free or low cost technology tools and accommodations that will make a huge impact on teaching and learning. Whether novice or advanced, iOS or Chromebook, you will leave with solutions for your students.

See also:

- <http://udltechtoolkit.wikispaces.com/>
- <https://sites.google.com/site/chromeassistivetechology/home>



[“Reading Difficulties in the General Education Classroom: A Taxonomy of Text Modification Strategies”](#)

Table 2 - A Taxonomy of Text Modification Strategies		
If the reading problem is due to...	...the functional difficulty is...	...then, AT consideration should explore...
inability to see the text	low vision	screen magnification
the fact that English is a second language	limited English language skills	language translation
a lack of interest	motivation / interest	high interest reading material
poor decoding skills	inadequate word attack skills	multimedia reading materials
too many unknown words	vocabulary deficiencies	electronic word tools
a lack of fluency	reading is slow and tedious	audio books
		text-to-speech software
		text-to-speech conversion software
a mismatch between the text's readability level and the reader	poor comprehension	cognitive rescaling
difficulty understanding due to limited background knowledge	poor comprehension	locate comparable content at a lower developmental level
difficulty understanding concepts and relationships	poor comprehension	concept mapping
difficulty identifying important information	poor comprehension	electronic quizzes

Built-In Features in MS Word, Windows, Web, [+Apps](#) (aligned to [STAAR A](#))

Solutions to Reading Barriers

and

Writing Barriers

Read by Myself- Read With Me-Read to Me::
read by looking at pictures, retelling the story,
reading the text

Background Knowledge

- Insert clip art/picture support
- Insert hyperlink to website or video!

Readability Levels

- Paste text into Word or [online for Readability Statistics](#) feature for Flesh Kincaid levels.

Simplify Material

- Copy and paste text into [TextCompactor](#), a free, web-based autosummarizer, [Skimzee](#) or [TLDR](#)
- [Rewordify](#) simplifies content and supports vocab
- [Tarheel Reader](#) and other [high-interest low reading level books](#) including [news articles](#)

Support Visual Ease

- Enlarge font size Use comic sans font
- Double space Use highlighter
- Graphics smart art in Word

Vocabulary

- Highlight key words, insert clip art, [word wall](#)

Decoding & Comprehension

- Instead of adults reading materials aloud, get material onto the computer and use free Text-to-Speech tools ([WordTalk](#), or [MyStudyBar](#))
- Or, use the [Sound Recorder in Windows](#) to record yourself reading text/instructions so that students can re-listen as needed
- [iPad settings "imaged" with the iOS built-in text-to-speech enabled](#)
- [Graphic Organizers](#) (ISD's usu. w/Kidspiration)
- [Bookshare](#) or [Learning Ally](#) for eligible students
- [TextGrabber](#) (5.99) or [Paperport Notes](#) (free) use iDevice camera to capture text (worksheet) insert it into a doc & use speak feature/ listen

Prosody/Fluency Use [Audacity](#) or [Sound Recorder](#) in Windows to record students reading aloud; students can make audiobooks for younger grades or [Record Box app](#)

Form & Function-[Developmental Writing Measures](#)

Handwriting

- [Tarheel Typer](#) is an alternate pencil- talking word processor that's switch accessible, customizable, and has word prediction

Annotation apps- [Paperport](#), [Notability](#), [Evernote](#) also have audio recording to help with notetaking

Spelling

- Personal dictionary- could add picture support with clip art and with [WordTalk](#) (text to speech) student could listen to words or listen and correct errors
- Develop word/phrase bank template- [First Author Software](#), [Clicker Sentences](#) app, [Bitsboard](#) app
- Word prediction software [Read&Write for Google](#), CoWriter, WordQ, with corresponding apps

Ideas and Elaboration

- Use [Sound Recorder](#) in Windows to have students get ideas out verbally. Since it's recorded, they can go back, re-listen, try to type out thoughts, etc.
- Use speech-to-text ([built-in Windows 7](#)) or free online tool <http://talktyper.com/>
- Use iPad 3's Dictation or [Paperport Notes](#) app's speech recognition to get ideas out
- Use clip art as a visual sentence starter

Organization

- Use SmartArt graphic organizers in Word

Revising

- Student can listen back to his/her work using text-to-speech feature ([WordTalk](#)) and better catch and correct mistakes.
- [Educreations](#) or ShowMe apps to record work