

# **Low-Tech Assistive Technology Resource Guide**

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## Recording Lectures

In the state of Florida, students are legally allowed to audio or video record their lectures by faculty or guest lecturer personal educational uses. See [here](#) for more details.

- [Voice Recorder](#) (Windows)
- [Voice Memos](#) (OSX)
- [Voice Recording in iOS](#)
- [Rev Voice Recorder](#) (iOS, Android)

## Note-Taking Tools

- Voice memo on phone (built-in)
- Voice Record Pro (free, Apple Store & Google Play)



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- [Otter.ai](#): A speech-to-text platform that transcribes audio and video recordings in real-time, allowing students to focus on class discussions without worrying about taking notes. It also has features like note organization and collaboration.



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- Live Scribe Smartpen
  - o A digital pen that records and synchronizes audio with handwritten notes, creating a digital copy of your notes.
  - o Also provides a digital component that corresponds to their written notes
  - o Can request to borrow through the DRC
- [Evernote](#)
  - o A note-taking app that allows students to organize and synchronize notes across multiple devices.
  - o Helps students with organization and time management difficulties by providing a centralized location for notes and tasks.
- [Notability](#)

- A note-taking app that allows students to record audio and sync it with handwritten notes.
- Provides an audio component that corresponds to written notes, making it easier for students with visual or processing difficulties.
- [SoundNote](#)
  - A note-taking app that allows students to record audio and sync it with handwritten notes.
- [AccessNote](#)
  - A note-taking app that allows students to take notes with a digital pen, similar to the Livescribe Smartpen.



- [Sonocent Recorder](#)
  - A digital audio recorder that allows students to record lectures and sync them with a textbook or other materials.



- [AudioNote](#)
  - A note-taking app that allows students to record audio and sync it with handwritten notes.
- [Jopling](#) (iOS and Android)
  - Joplin is an open source note-taking app that allows students to capture notes and securely access them from any device.
  - Can take multimedia notes as well as create math expression and diagrams directly in the app.



- [Microsoft OneNote](#)
  - A digital note-taking app that allows students to organize and sync notes across multiple devices, including desktops, laptops, and mobile devices.



- [OrbitNote](#)
  - A note-taking app that allows students to record audio and sync it with handwritten notes, creating a digital copy of their notes.



## Text to Speech (TTS)

This is the ability of your computer to playback written text as spoken words.

- [Read and Write for Windows](#)
- [Balabolka](#) (Windows Only)
  - A free, open-source text-to-speech software for Windows that can help students with disabilities.
  - Text-to-speech: Balabolka can read aloud text from various sources, including files, web pages, and the clipboard.
  - Speech synthesis: The software uses a high-quality speech synthesis engine to produce natural-sounding speech.
  - Customizable: Users can adjust the speech rate, pitch, and volume to suit their preferences.
  - Support for multiple languages: Balabolka supports over 45 languages, including English, Spanish, French, German, Italian, and many more.
  - Portable: The software is portable and can be run from a USB drive without installation.
- [Microsoft Learning Tools](#)
  - [Adding the Read Aloud shortcut](#)
  - [Use Immersive Reader for OneNote](#)
  - [Learning Tools in Word](#)
  - [Learning tools in the Edge Browser](#)
  - [Immersive Reader for Outlook](#)
    - ♣ [Video guide](#)

- Apple
  - [Mac Speak Selection](#)
    - ♣ [Apple Learning and Literacy tools](#)
  - [VoiceOver](#) - VoiceOver gives audible descriptions of what's on your screen—for example, hear the battery level, who's calling, or what item your finger is on. You can also customize the VoiceOver speaking voice to suit your needs.
  - [Speak Screen](#) - Have iPhone read the entire screen or a specific selection. Or hear what you type spoken out loud, character by character or word by word.
- [Adobe Read Out Loud](#)
- [Natural Reader](#) available online, chrome, iOS, Android
  - [Video instructions](#)
  - Text-to-Speech software that can read Microsoft Word, Webpages, PDFs, and Emails aloud
  - Choose from a variety of voices and customize your reading speed
  - Floating toolbar to read text aloud in other applications through the Chrome Extension
- [ElevenReader](#) (iOS and Android)



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- [Speechify](#) (Available as Chrome Extension and Android)
  - Free trial for 3 days; then \$11.58/month
  - Have text read out to you in natural-sounding voices
  - Upload documents into the application and/or use it to read aloud other websites with the chrome extension
  - Have your text read in a variety of languages

## **Voice Recognition / Voice Input**

See below for a list of speech-to-text software that allows students to dictate their thoughts and convert them into text. You can speak to write papers, emails, or control the computer.

- [Dragon NaturallySpeaking](#)

- [Office 365 Dictate](#) (requires Internet connection)
- [Apple/Mac Voice Recognition](#)
  - [Dictation \(iPhone\)](#)
  - [New options available in Catalina OS](#)
- [Quillsoft - WordQ](#)
- [Instructions to Turn on Voice Typing on Google](#)
- [Read&Write](#)
- [Voice Recognition in Windows](#)
- [Voice Typing on Android](#)

## **Captioning**

There are captioning services available to students to transcribe audio in real-time to better understand what is being said

- [Android Live Transcribe](#)
- [Live Caption in Chrome](#)
- [YouTube Automatic Captions](#)
- [Microsoft 365 Transcription](#)

## **Writing Support**

These are helpful writing tools that students can use to check grammar and spell and receive suggestions for improvements on their writing.

- [Ginger Grammar and Spell Checker](#)
- [Grammarly](#)
- [Hemingway Editor](#)
- [WordTune](#)

## **Concept Mapping**

Students can utilize concept mapping tools to create visual representations of ideas for writing or other projects.

- [C-Map \(Concept Map\)](#)
  - Visually organize their ideas and concepts, making it easier to understand and communicate complex information.
  - Can collaborate with other people in real time
- [XMind](#) (Sign-up with email)
  - Includes mind mapping and project management features

- [Gliffy](#)
  - Free trial for 30 days
  - Can create diagrams such as flowcharts, mind maps, and more with others



- [Popplet](#) (\$1.99/month and \$19.99/year)
  - Free trial for one visual map
  - A digital corkboard tool that allows users to create visual representations of ideas and concepts.
- [MindMeister](#)
  - Includes mind mapping and project management features
  - For group projects
- [InspirationMaps](#) ( \$9.99/ iOS only)
  - Includes mind mapping and project management features

## Screen Overlays

Screen overlays which can make reading on a computer screen a bit easier, improving visibility and reducing eye strain

- [Color filters on Windows 10](#) - provides range of color filters to improve visibility and make things easier to see on the screen
- [Morphic](#) : features magnifier, Snip, read selected aloud, color contrast, dark mode, night mode, and customizable font size
- [Screen Shader](#) (Chrome Extension)



- [Color Enhancer](#) (Browser Extension)
  - Features: customizable color schemes and modes
- [Screen Mask](#)
  - Features: customizable screen overlays, adjustable font sizes, and focus mode

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## **Screen Magnification**

Enlarge the screen for visually impaired individuals with limited speech reading capabilities.

- [MAGic](#)
  - Magnify text and images on their screen, adjust font sizes, and customize display settings
  - Screen magnification, font size adjustment and display customization settings
- [Microsoft Magnifier](#)
  - Built-in screen magnification tool that comes with Windows operating systems
  - Screen magnification, font size adjustment and display customization settings
- [Mac Vision Tools](#)
  - Built-in screen magnification tool that comes with macOS operating systems
  - Screen magnification, font size adjustment and display customization settings

## **Screen Reader**

Students with vision impairments can utilize screen reader software that provides features such as navigating and reading digital content (documents, emails, websites, and applications)

- [JAWS](#)
  - Job Access With Speech
- [NVDA](#)
  - Free and open-source screen reader software that provides a range of features to help users with visual impairments.
- [Microsoft Narrator](#)
  - Built-in screen reader tool in the Windows operating systems
- [Mac VoiceOver](#)
  - Built-in screen reader tool in the macOS operating systems
- [Fusion](#)
  - Can be available in different versions – for home, school, or business

- Includes: features for magnification, font adjustment, and automatic reading of documents, web pages, and emails
- [Narrator](#)
  - Built-in screen magnification tool in Windows operating systems
- [TalkBack on Android](#)
  - Built-in screen magnification tool in Android with screen reading and navigation and works with popular applications

## **Digital Book Resources**

Digital library resources that provide digital books, textbooks, periodicals, and assistive technology tools for people with disabilities in multiple formats (PDF, EPUB, and DAISY)

- [Bookshare](#)
  - Free for all U.S. students with qualifying disabilities.
- [Project Gutenberg](#)
  - Offers free E-books whose copyright has expired
- [Internet Archive](#) - free access to public domain materials that are no longer under copyright

## **Reading Support**

These supports can provide features such as distraction-free focus mode and font customization

- [OpenDyslexic](#)
  - Free and open-source font for people with dyslexia to improve reading comprehension



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- [Just Read](#) (Browser Extension; free and premium version)
  - Removes ads and other visual clutter to only focus on what you're reading



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- [HelperBird](#)
  - o Provides screen overlays for sensitivity to light and screen
  - o Can adjust font size, paragraph width and length, and line/word spacing
  - o Dyslexia ruler



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- [Rewordify](#) (Website)
  - o Highlights difficult words and replaces higher-level vocabulary with words that are easier to understand
  - o Provides rewording, definitions, and synonyms
- [SwiftRead](#) (Application)
  - o Assists with focus, visual tracking, comprehension, and reading at a faster pace
  - o Provides distraction free focus mode and customizable font sizes
  - o Compatible with webpages, PDF, ePub, or text that you can copy-paste



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## Time Management Tools

- [Cold Turkey](#) and [Cold Turkey Writer](#)
  - Website blocker that helps users stay focused by blocking distracting websites and apps



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- [Written? Kitten](#)
  - Distraction-free writing environment to meet your writing goals



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- [Minimalist](#) (web application)
  - Minimalistic to-do list app to stay focused on their tasks
- [Guided Access](#) (iOS)
  - Help focus on tasks and avoid distractions by locking device to a single app
- [Do Not Disturb on iOS](#)
  - Can silence notifications and calls to avoid distractions and stay on task
- [HomeRoutines](#)
  - Help create and manage daily functions to develop a routine, prioritize tasks, and manage time



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- [Habitica](#)
  - Gamified productivity and habit formation application to build positive habits and stay motivated through rewards and missions on the app



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- [Trello](#)
  - Project management tool that are also often used to keep up with school work.
  - Help visualize and prioritize tasks, set deadlines, and track progress
  - [YouTube Guide](#) to get started:



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- [Todoist](#)
  - Create and manage their to-do lists



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- [Goblin](#) (web application, iOS, and Android)
  - Collection of small, simple, single-task tools, mostly designed to help complete tasks that are overwhelming or difficult
  - Features include: Time estimator, brainstorm, and magic to-do list to chunk tasks down



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- [Forest](#)
  - Gamified productivity app to grow a virtual forest through focus times



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- Pomodoro Timers
  - [Pomofocus.io](#) (Web)

- [Pomodoro Timer Lite](#) (Android)
  - Focus Keeper
- [MyNoise](#) (website) - Free
  - Noise generator that helps users stay focused by providing a distraction-free work environment



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- Reminder app (iOS and Android) - predownloaded on iPhone or Android
  - Pop-up timed and location reminders with repeat scheduling
  - Pop-up timers with messages, countdown/up, time
  - Categories to help you organize your reminders and timers



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- [Roots](#) (Android and iOS) - Free with subscription plans
  - Schedule app and website blocking sessions, mindfulness, phone detox challenges



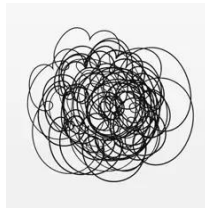
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- [Jomo](#) (iOS) - Free with subscription plans available
  - Schedule app and website blocking



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- [One Sec](#) (iOS and Android) - free with subscription plan available
  - Schedule app and website blocking sessions and help you with productivity and mental health



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- [Refocus \(iOS\)](#) - Free
  - Schedule app and website blocking sessions, set app timers, and prevent unblocking (with limited number of unblocking)
- [Clearspace](#) (iOS and Android) - Free
  - Block applications
  - App time limits
  - Set schedules for when to use apps
  - Screen Time Challenges: train your attention by engaging in challenges that strengthen your ability to focus.
  - Keeps you accountable to help you stick to your screen time goals.
  - Tracks screen time data
- [Naze](#) (iOS) - Free
  - Locks apps and can set usage time



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- [Opal](#) (iOS) - free and premium version available
  - Features include task management, time blocking, and focus mode

