

# ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE GUIDE

A BRIEF CATALOGUE  
OF THE PRIMARY ASSISTIVE  
TECHNOLOGIES USED BY  
STUDENTS REGISTERED  
WITH STUDENT  
ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

## GLOSSARY OF POPULAR TECHNOLOGIES

### TEXT TO SPEECH

- [Kurzweil 3000](#)
- [ClaroRead](#)

### SPEECH TO TEXT

- [Dragon Naturally Speaking](#)

### MIND MAPPING

- [Inspiration 10](#)

### NOTETAKING & RECORDING

- [Handwriting & Recording | Livescribe](#)
- [Typing & Recording | AudioNote](#)

### GRAMMAR AND/OR WRITING

- [Text Help: Read & Write Gold](#)
- [Grammarly](#)



## WHAT IS AN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

An assistive technology is any device, software or equipment that can help kids with learning and attention issues work around their challenges. While there are wide range of assistive technologies used across educational institutions and at York, we are going to focus on the five primary tools that most students registered with Student Accessibility Services have used.

### KURZWEIL 3000

Kurzweil 3000 is an educational technology, or assistive technology, which provides a reading, writing and study platform aimed at learners with disabilities that make reading or writing difficult.

#### **USEFUL FOR:**

Individuals living with:

- dyslexia
- dysgraphia
- attention deficit issues
- English language learners

Windows and MAC: Yes

Trial version available: Yes (30 day Trial)

Alternative Software: ClaroRead

**An assistive technologist can demonstrate most technologies over Zoom. For more information about these products or any other assistive technology, please consult with your Accessibility Counsellor to book an appointment with the assistive technologist.**

### LIVESCRIBE SMARTPEN

A Livescribe Smartpen is about the size and weight of a large pen (5/8" x 6 1/8"), and is equipped with a removable ball-point ink cartridge, a microphone to record audio, a speaker for playback, a small OLED display, an infra-red camera, and internal flash memory that captures handwritten notes, audio and drawings.

The user can choose to record audio in addition to the handwritten text. Recorded audio is kept indexed with the handwritten text—tapping on a written word starts playback of the recorded audio from that part of the recording.

#### **USEFUL FOR:**

- any student who records notes
- attention deficit issues
- dyslexia
- dysgraphia
- memory challenges
- executive functioning

Windows and MAC: Yes

Trial version available: No

### TEXTHELP: READ & WRITE GOLD

Text to audio software, geared towards improving writing with an enhanced dictionary, homonym and word prediction tools.

Windows and MAC: Yes

Trial version available: Yes (30 days)

#### **[TextHelp] USEFUL FOR:**

- Dyslexia
- Reading and writing difficulties

WINDOWS and MAC: Yes

Trial version available: Yes

### DRAGON NATURALLY SPEAKING

Dragon Naturally Speaking is a speech to text recognition software. It allows users to use their computer hands free by using a headset and microphone.

#### **USEFUL FOR:**

- People living with physical disabilities
- People who prefer oral dictation
- People who have significant difficulty writing their thoughts on paper

WINDOWS AND MAC: Windows only

Trial version available: Yes (30 days)

### INSPIRATION

Inspiration Software is a mind mapping software designed for people with disabilities that impact visual learning and organization.

#### **USEFUL FOR:**

- dyslexia
- dysgraphia
- visual learners
- organizational challenges
- useful for essay prep and studying

WINDOWS and MAC: Yes

Trial version available: Yes