DYSLEXIA AND TECHNOLOGY

Don't adjust your screen. If this E-tip looks funny to you, it's because it uses a dyslexia-friendly font called OpenDyslexic (https://www.opendyslexic.org).

Did you know that one in five students has a language-based learning disability like dyslexia?[1] Students with dyslexia have many more options to help them succeed in school today than even five years ago. From devices to software to simple things, like fonts, using technology is a great way to differentiate for a child with dyslexia.

DEVICES AND SOFTWARE

If there are iPads in your classroom, you have a built-in tool to help students with dyslexia write and navigate more easily: speech-to-text. Simply tap the microphone that shows up above the keyboard when in a textbox or document, and the student can begin speaking whatever is on his mind. It may require some editing before it is perfect, but with less frustration. There is a similar function for Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides, found in Tools → Voice typing.

Before students can do any writing, however, they need to do research. For this, students need to install the Chrome browser extension called OpenDyslexic.

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month

When turned on, it makes all web pages use the same font as this E-tip, which has been proven to help people with dyslexia focus on the text more easily.

USING AUDIO TO ASSIST LEARNING

Students with dyslexia learn better if allowed to listen to audio recordings. While taking notes on the board, record what you are saying. Not only will this help students with dyslexia, but if a student is absent, they can hear exactly what you said as well! If you are assigning a reading from a book or novel for class, allow students to listen to it (many novels have recordings on Youtube). Once again, this can help both students with and without dyslexia.

_____

Sources:
[1] "5 Steps For Identifying Dyslexia in Your Child." Understanding Dyslexia, Dyslexia Center of Utah, www.dyslexiacenterofutah.org/Statistics.
[2] Eide, Fernette. "3 Technology Must-Do's for Dyslexia at School." 3 Technology Must-Do's for Dyslexia at School, Dyslexic Advantage, www.dyslexicadvantage.org/3-technology-must-dos-for-dyslexia-at-school/.

_____

Find more E-tips at https://goo.gl/qPn7bN.