



# SPEECH TO TEXT



Reduces the physical and cognitive demands of written expression so students can focus more on planning, organizing, elaborating, and expressing their ideas more fluidly and efficiently.

## WHAT IS IT?

**Speech-to-text (STT)** converts spoken words into written text, allowing students to communicate their ideas through dictation rather than handwriting or typing. It supports access by reducing the physical and cognitive demands of written expression while helping students demonstrate what they know.

## WHAT BARRIERS DOES IT REMOVE?

- Difficulty with handwriting or keyboarding
- Fine motor challenges that slow written work
- Reduced writing stamina or endurance
- Difficulty organizing thoughts while simultaneously writing
- Barriers related to the mechanics of writing

**Result:** Students can devote more cognitive resources to planning, organizing, and communicating their ideas.



## WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?



In an **elementary** classroom, a student dictates a personal narrative before revising and editing with teacher support.

In **middle/junior high** English language arts, a student uses speech-to-text to draft an argumentative response, allowing them to focus on developing evidence and reasoning.

In **high school** social studies, a student dictates responses to a document-based question before reviewing, editing, and submitting a final draft.



## WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR...

Speech-to-text supports written expression, but should not replace writing instruction in areas such as grammar, spelling, and handwriting. It can reduce barriers **when the learning goal is generating or communicating ideas**. If this is an accommodation, it should be taught and used during instruction routinely before any assessments. It's helpful to explicitly teach how to enter punctuation, watch for misinterpreted information on the page, and more.

Ask yourself: Am I assessing the student's ideas, or their ability to physically write them down?

## LEARN MORE ⇌



- Microsoft Word Dictate – Built into Microsoft Word, One note and 365.
- Windows Voice Typing – Built into Windows (Win + H) and works across many applications.
- Chromebook Dictation – Built-in accessibility feature that allows students to dictate into text fields.
- Padlet, Canva Docs, Wayground, Magic school, Read & Write, & Packet

