Introduction to Assistive Technology
"Strategies and Tools" - Part 2
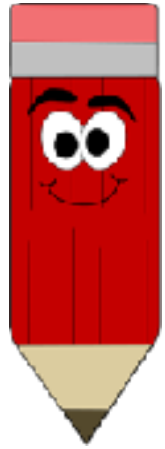# Fall, 2018

v6

WRITING/EXPRESSIVE
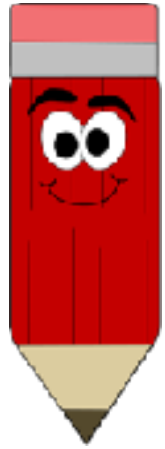
What Ways Can Technology Help?

- **Listen** to words as I type them (text-to-speech)
- **Dictate** my words and turn into text (speech-to-text).
- **Predictive** typing (word suggestions to choose from)
- Check my **grammar**, find **synonyms for me**
- Get help with **spelling**: (e.g., ask Siri, dictionary and thesaurus lookup with a voice request)

WRITING/EXPRESSIVE

What Ways Can Technology Help?

- **Listen** to work I have completed so I can "hear" where punctuation should be added.
- Use **mind maps** to create a graphical representation of my thoughts
- Export an **outline** from a mind map to start my writing
- Add (searchable) **handwriting,** and **draw** notes
- **Annotate** documents and pictures

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Word Processors

General Use

- Use standard built-in tools such as - voice dictation, speak text, define word, word prediction, limited drawing tools, Siri/Alexa assistance

- **Microsoft Word** (free)

- **Apple Pages** (free)

- **Microsoft OneNote**

- **Apple Notes** (free)

- **Google Docs** (free)

- **FiiNote (free)**

Word Processors
Specialized Apps

Specialized tools: have some, or all, of these features:

- choice of voices/fonts/background colours/text colours

- picture dictionary

- homophone/confusables checking

- (phonetic) spell checker

- text-to-speech

Specialized Online Word Processors

Read&Write - Adds a convenient toolbar to Google Docs to enable easy access to reading tools, such as prediction, picture dictionaries and summary highlighters. *

Enables easy entry of math symbols into Google Docs when using Read&Write. *

- **Voice Dream Reader / Voice Dream Writer** (bundle $27.99, or $20.99 and $13.99)

(* $ or Subscription service.)

Word Processors

Specialized Apps - for Younger Writers

- customizable keyboards

- word walls

- custom vocabulary

- pictures

- word prediction

- text-to-speech

- **Clicker Sentences** $44.49

- **Clicker Connect** $44.99
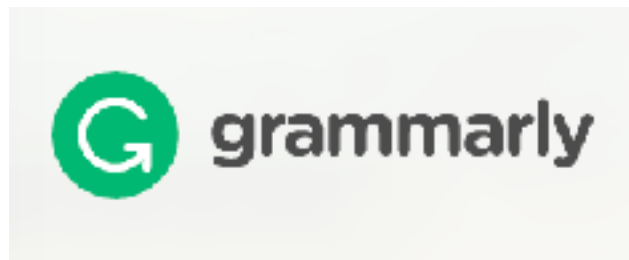

- **Clicker Docs** $44.99

Writing Tools

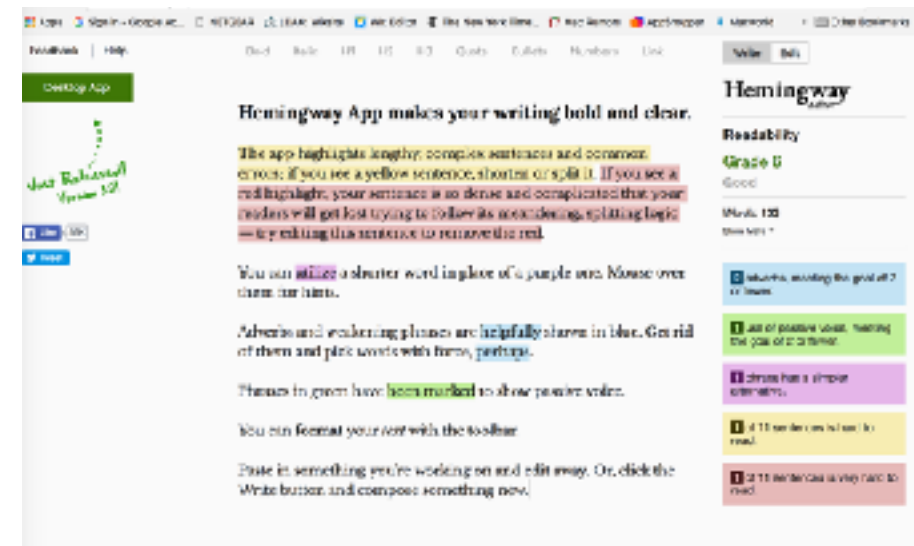- **Grammar and Writing Style**

Free and $ Apps

- **Ginger Page: English Grammar Checker ($5.49)**

- **Grammarly (web-based version, free)**
  http://www.grammarly.com/grammar-check

HEMINGWAY Editor (online) free:
http://www.hemingwayapp.com/

Audio Recording Tools

Some features:

- record audio,

- take notes time linked with the audio,

- skip within audio by tapping on related text

- **AudioNote** (free / $6.99)

- quickly and easily record short notes as well as important ideas and set reminders using speech recognition.

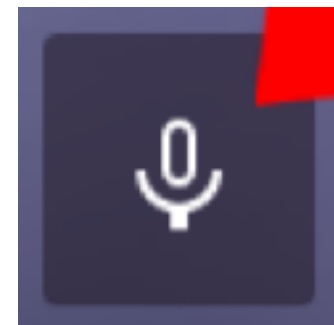- **Voice notes** (free) - Android

Speech to Text Tools

- **Dragon Anywhere** -free trial and $subscription

- **Tap the microphone icon on any keyboard on IOS devices** - then start

- **Speechnotes** - Speech To Text

- **Chromebook:** Tap on the microphone in the system tray to dictate.

Document Annotation and Note Taking

- **Notebook** (free)
  Scan Annotate and Organize (free)

- **Notability** ($8.49)

  Good for sketch-noting and audio recording Note Taking with Synced Audio; has notebooks for organizational storage; good for all ages

- **GoodReader** ($)

- **PDF Expert**
  $13.99

Organizational: todo lists, notes, reminders

- Apple Notes

Dictate notes, read text to me with word and sentence highlighting, annotate photos and notes, make checklists, add an audio file, or create a drawing. Scan printed pages or add photos and videos. Work collaboratively with someone else.

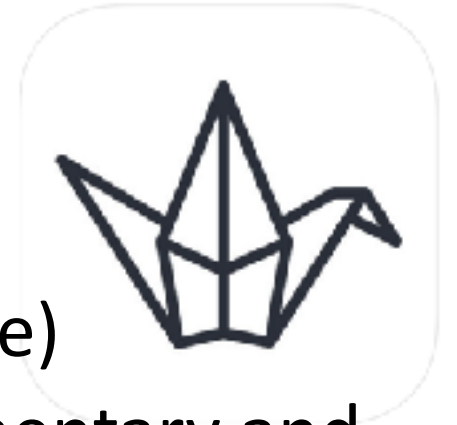
- Google Keep

- Microsoft OneNote

Mind Map Tools

- **Popplet** (free/$6.99)

  simple to use; can share and brainstorm at same time - colour coding :)

- **Inspiration / Kidspiration Maps**

  (Free/$13.99) IOS app, also available online; can convert maps to outlines for use later in Pages app.

- **Padlet** (Free)

  -good for elementary and for sharing. Simple, device agnostic.

- **MindMeister** (Free and paid) - can export outlines to Google Docs, Chrome extension and online

- **Mindomo** (Free)

To Think About…

- Think about what's built-in on the devices you already have

- Be mindful of what needs WiFI to work, and what can work on its own

- Check out "free" first - try the "lite" versions of apps and watch YouTube video reviews to see what the app is like before you purchase

- Read a number of reviews of apps BEFORE you purchase them

- Lots of good apps out there - subscription services need to be extra good to compete and be worth the price

- Become informed about your own technology's capabilities

- Check what technology and apps are available at school - e.g., using Google or Microsoft infrastructure

- Check what devices your school will let you bring to school

- Start small - try only one or two new things at a time

- CHECK OUT PRIVACY of your online work — don't leave any identifying info; and check what kids can also see and do while there!

- Make a backup of your important work

Resources

- **Khan Academy Kids IOS and Google Play**
  https://www.khanacademy.org/
  Platform: Android, iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, Kindle Fire,
  Fire phone

- **Edtech Tool - view apps by selecting criteria and
  platform**
  https://www.commonsense.org/education/reviews/all?
  page=1&sort=changed&platforms=24

- **iPad Apps for Learners with Dyslexia
  (2017)**
  http://www.callscotland.org.uk/
  downloads/posters-and-leaflets/ipad-
  apps-for-learners-with-dyslexia/

- **Using the iPad to Support Dyslexia
  (2015)**
  http://www.callscotland.org.uk/
  downloads/posters-and-leaflets/using-
  the-ipad-to-support-dyslexia/

- **iPad Apps for Learners with
  Dyscalculia/Numeracy Difficulties
  (2017)**
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  downloads/posters-and-leaflets/ipad-
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