

Strategies for Increasing Accessibility During Online/Remote Learning

1) Access to Required Course Reading

Vital Source – see <https://bookshelf.vitalsource.com/#/user/signin>

- A clearinghouse of major publishers that allows students to access electronic copies of their course texts for free
- After opening the above link:
 - Students can create an account
 - Access the site on phones or computers, or both
 - Use this account to read textbooks online
 - Search for textbooks by entering the title, the textbook ISBN or e-ISBN in the search bar

For Web-Based Platforms:

Natural Reader – see <https://www.naturalreaders.com/online/>

Natural Reader is a professional text-to-speech program that converts any written text into spoken words. This web-based program can read multiple document formats (MS Word docs, pdf files) and convert them to mp3 audio files. The free app allows the user 20 minutes per month. Unlimited access is available at \$9.99 per month. The paid versions of Natural Reader have many more features. This app can be helpful for individuals who are reading posted documents that are required reading for a course. It may also facilitate one's own writing, with the opportunity to hear/play back what one has already composed.

For Reading on a Tablet (with or without Consistent Internet Connection):

Dolphin Easy Reader – see <https://yourdolphin.com/products/individuals/easyreader-app>

This free reading app for Android and iOS products is designed especially for individuals with dyslexia, low vision, and blindness. With EasyReader you can say goodbye to frustrating small print and inaccessible reading apps. Users can browse their favorite accessible book and newspaper libraries, make the print as big as you need, and add audio to text only titles.

2) Assistance with Writing

Spechnotes – Speech to Text - see <https://spechnotes.co/>

This free app has the highest rated speech recognition editor on the Chrome store. It is powered by Google's Speech-to-Text engines & proprietary algorithms to make it a business-class working tool.

Although free, users find it to be a great alternative to the industry's leader, Dragon NaturallySpeaking.

Users will find it helpful for both dictation and regular typing. It allows you to edit your speech results easily, and it Auto-saves everything.

Just Press Record – see <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/just-press-record/id1033342465>

For a cost of \$4.99, this app is available only on the App Store for iPhone, iPad, and Apple Watch. There are no time limits for recording, and it is possible to control recording with a start, pause, and stop. Thus, you won't feel rushed while dictating and thinking. The app quickly converts your speech into a text that you can edit while you are in process, and it supports over 30 languages.

3) Assistance with Sustaining Motivation & Organization

Google Keep – see <https://www.google.com/keep/>

This free app is available for Android, iOS, Chrome, and web platform users.

Note taking assistance allows users to record their thoughts and create a written record at any time. Allows you to create notes, lists, and audio reminders.

Rememberthemilk – see <https://www.rememberthemilk.com/>

Remember the Milk is a free organizational app that can sync across Windows, iOS, and Android products.

The app allows you to add tasks to customizable lists, break projects down into smaller tasks, and set reminders to keep you on track.

For iOS 11.0 or later, iPhone and iPad Users (available only on the Apple Store app)

Flora Focus Habit Tracker – see <https://apps.apple.com/app/flora-stay-focused-together/id1225155794>

If you're having difficulty putting your phone down long enough to get anything done, this app is for you.

This free app is helpful to USE WHEN:

- * limiting your screen time in order to get freedom from social media, games and digital life;
- * trying to stay focused (alone or together) at work, school or home in order to clear your "to-do list" and achieve your goals;
- * trying to be present and enjoy moments with friends & family (such as during morning routines, lunch, dinner, events, etc.);
- * paying attention to yourself, practicing self-care and mindfulness;
- * practicing breathing exercises and meditation;
- * seeking to develop healthy habits, such as quitting phone time well in advance of sleep.

This app helps facilitate a self-motivated and fun way to enable you and your friends beat phone overuse, procrastination, ADHD, and the "study blues."

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