Assistive Technologies to Promote Universal Accessibility

Introduction to Assistive Technology

WHAT IS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

Assistive technology includes all learning supports used to create and sustain equitable learning environments for all students through universally designed access, engagement, and participation.

NO TECH

Graphic Organizers
Scribe
Slanted Surfaces
Tactile Letters

LOW TECH

Audiobooks
Spell Checkers
Visual Timers
Voice-to-Text Programs
Word Processors

HIGH TECH

E-readers
Touchscreen Devices
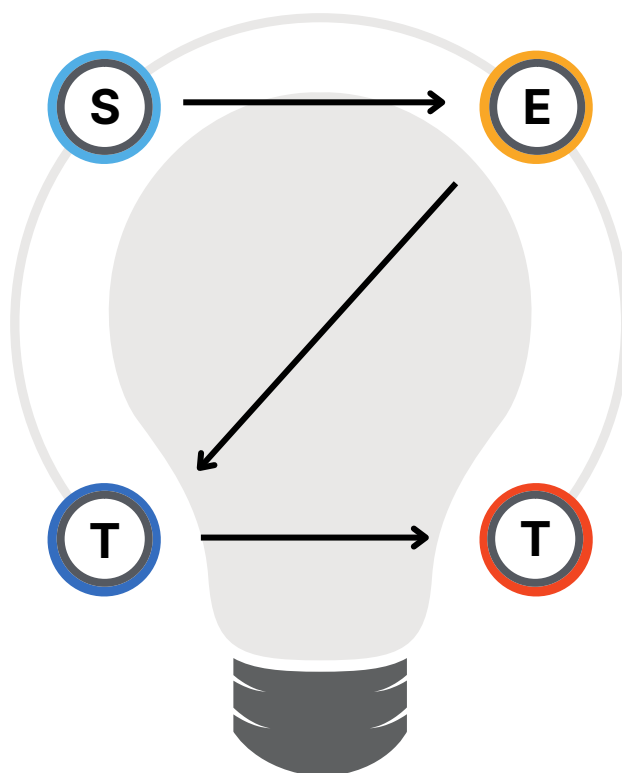Voice-to-Text Programs
Word Prediction

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Serves as an **equalizer** for special population students
- Helps students overcome **communications barriers**
- Makes online content more **accessible**
- Promotes **adaptive** skills
- Allows teachers to **share instructional content** with ALL students

WHAT IS THE SETT FRAMEWORK?

- **Student** — Identify student **needs** or **concerns**, and their strengths, abilities, and expectations.

- **Task** — What specific thing does the student need to be able to do, and what are the **functional things** actively involved in remote learning?

S → E → T → T

- **Environment** — Rather than focusing only on the environment of the classroom and school building, home learning environments must be considered. What are the **arrangements** and **supports** available in student homes?

- **Toolkit** — What can we use to help the student **access** their instructional content?

References:
- American University (2020, December 1). *The importance of assistive technology in the virtual and physical classroom*. https://soeonline.american.edu/blog/assistive-technology-in-the-classroom
- Zuger, S. (2020, November 19). *How to use assistive technology during remote and blended learning*. Tech & Learning. https://www.techlearning.com/how-to/how-to-use-assistive-technology-during-remote-and-blended-learning