

An assessor's guide to Writing Helper

This guide explains how Writing Helper software can be helpful for students with additional learning needs who qualify for the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA).

To get your assessor copy, please visit text.help/dsa-solutions





Guidelines for recommending Writing Helper for DSA students

Writing Helper is designed specifically to help students produce written assignments, including essays, reports, and dissertations. It guides students through a linear, structured approach that starts with a question (or title) and a deadline, and ends with their assignment in Word format.

While Writing Helper was designed with neurodiverse students in mind, it can help anyone who finds writing assignments difficult or stressful. By facilitating the writing process, Writing Helper can help students to focus their time and energy on critical thinking, data analysis, and so on.

Where it works:

Writing Helper is a progressive web app that gives access to all devices including, Chrome Books, Windows and Mac

Breakdown of needs covered

- Reading & writing difficulties dyslexia, dyspraxia, and other literacy difficulties
- Mental health problems anxiety, OCD, stress, and working memory difficulty
- Cognition & sensory processing autism, ADHD/ADD, epilepsy, fatigue





Learning needs

How Writing Helper Helps

Learning needs

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Reading and writing difficulties

(including dyslexia, dyspraxia or dyscalculia)

Students who have dyslexia or other literacy challenges can be supported by Writing Helper to read and process texts with more confidence.

Many dyslexics use colour-coding as a strategy for processing long or complex texts. To help with this, Writing Helper has a markup tool that enables the user to highlight and colour-code information.

Students with reading difficulties may benefit from customising the background colours (e.g. dark mode or other screen tints) to suit their preference.

Mental health issues

Starting an essay is hard. When all the student has is a blank page, anxiety can make them unable to focus on the huge task of writing the assignment.

Writing Helper offers students a helping hand. It gives them a pathway to progress from that blank page, breaking down the assignment into smaller, self-contained chunks of work that they can focus on more easily.

Collecting and categorising information with colour-coded highlighters aids organisational skills and assists in preventing overwhelm.



Learning needs

How Writing Helper Helps

Cognition and sensory processing

Writing Helper offers a simple but effective toolset to enable students to capture information from the sources they want to use in their assignments. It provides support as they organise, reword, and cite this information, and encourages them to think critically about the sources they use.

Students who experience difficulty organising their thoughts can use Writing Helper to sift through large quantities of reading material. The tool helps them to focus on developing an effective structure to their arguments.

Writing Helper intentionally does not show the final appearance of the document throughout the writing process. This prevents the student being distracted by continual formatting.

The tool guides students to format their assignments just once, at the end, only after they have completed their writing. This makes it easier for students to focus on content and structure.

Download a quick reference card

<u>Desktop</u>

For more information on Texthelp tools for DSA students

visit https://text.help/dsa-wh-academy or email us at dsagroup@texthelp.com.

