



An Assessor's guide to OrbitNote

This guide explains how OrbitNote 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



An assessor's guide to OrbitNote

Where it works:

OrbitNote works on any browser running on Chromebooks, Windows PCs and Macs.

It works with Google Drive and Microsoft One Drive, allowing you to access your local documents but also files stored in the Cloud.



Read&Write, ClaroRead and Equatio users will automatically get access to OrbitNote, Texthelp's PDF reader and editor

OrbitNote premium includes OCR scanning technology to convert inaccessible print or PDF documents into editable, shareable, and accessible documents. This enables students to use all of Read&Write's, ClaroRead's and Equatio's features - from text-to-speech to the highlighting tool - on previously inaccessible documents, as well as annotate them with text and voice notes.

OrbitNote supplements the literacy supports offered by Read&Write and ClaroRead, as well as numeracy support for our digital maths tool Equatio. Providing students with a well rounded accessibility solution.

OrbitNote supports students with the following learning needs:

- Reading & writing difficulties - including dyslexia, dyspraxia, and other literacy challenges
- Cognition & sensory processing - including ADHD/ADD
- Visual impairment and visual stress
- Hearing impairment
- Motion and dexterity problems



Learning needs

Reading and writing challenges

(including dyslexia, dyspraxia or dyscalculia)

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How OrbitNote Helps

Students can hear what is being read aloud and track the words on screen with dual coloured highlighting, helping them to process the information more efficiently. Improves auditory reading speed and productivity as listening to information supports more efficient auditory memory. Hearing and seeing the words can increase word recognition.lecturer.

Screen masking

This feature can be altered to specific colors, providing a helpful screen tint.

Screen-masking can be used with the reading ruler which aids tracking when reading large bodies of text. This supports students with cognitive load challenges by narrowing their focus to individual paragraphs. Students with Irlen Syndrome, a perceptual processing disorder which affects the brain's ability to process visual information, will find this particularly useful. This can also be referred to as Meares-Irlen Syndrome, Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome, or visual stress.

Dictionary definitions

The advanced dictionary offers grammar assistance and thesaurus support, supporting the student in thinking around the subject.

There is the option for definitions to be read aloud, helping students to quickly look up the meaning of a word.

The picture dictionary provides the student with a visual representation of a word, helping with memory recall.

Highlighters

A useful research tool that allows students to collect and collate information from the internet and documents. This automatically creates a bibliography upon collection.

Students can colour code pieces of work for easier processing of information.

Learning needs

Reading and writing challenges

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How OrbitNote Helps

Talk&Type

Speech-to-text helps students who struggle using a keyboard to create error-free documents verbally.

Dictation is available to support those who have difficulty with constructing sentences and writing.

Talk&Type can be used with the Add Text and Push Pin features to provide fully accessible note-taking.

Vocabulary list

Students can create their own word lists to help with memory recall, which is particularly useful during revision.

Allows students to create vocabulary lists with both visual and auditory support.

Text Tool

Students can now use PDF content in the same way they would use other document types. The text tool allows the student to type on any area within a PDF, using keyboard entry or voice typing. Font can be resized, and text entry is supported with predictive text to support students with dyslexia. All added text can be read aloud with text-to-speech.

Annotations

Students can add notes to a PDF using their own handwriting. They can add shapes or freehand drawing to help them focus on key parts of a document. This supports students with dyspraxia by providing a range of input methods for note-taking, including use of touchscreen devices and stylus tools.

Learning
needs

Reading and
writing
challenges

< Take a tour

How OrbitNote Helps

Multimodal comments

Students can now go beyond text note-taking and add voice notes and URLs to provide support for a wide range of study techniques.

Images can be added to comments to provide visual cues for note-taking. Students now have the widest range of accessible note-taking tools to support a wide range of challenges.

Learning needs

Cognition and sensory processing

[Take a tour](#)

How OrbitNote Helps

OCR, screenshot reader, Add Text, Push Pins

OrbitNote removes the stress of accessing PDFs. Its inbuilt, one-click OCR allows students to convert inaccessible PDFs to an accessible format. This reduces reliance on student support and ensures all content is fully accessible when opened.

Push pins remove distractions for a wide range of students including those with ADHD/ADD. Because they can be minimised, these notes don't increase the complexity of a document. This ensures that students aren't overwhelmed by side notes or additional visual stress.

Pin features to provide a mechanism for note-taking.

Screen masking

Screen masking improves working memory and helps students to concentrate by focusing on smaller amounts of text.

Screen masking can be used with the reading ruler which aids tracking when reading large bodies of text. This supports students with cognitive load difficulties by narrowing the focus to individual paragraphs.

Vocabulary list

The vocabulary list allows key course phrases and terms to be collected and displayed in one place, which is a great point of reference for students with poor working memory.

Learning needs

Low vision and visual impairments

[Take a tour](#)

How OrbitNote Helps

Screen masking

Screen masking helps students with visual stress as they can use customisable coloured overlays on screen. This prescription can then be applied via screenmasking for its corresponding HEX color, or can be customised by the student.

Using screen masking with the adjustable reading ruler helps students with visual impairments as it narrows their focus to individual paragraphs.

Zoom

Whole-page or section-based zoom tools are provided to ensure students have access to pixel perfect view of text and images when needed.

Comment fonts

Note-taking fonts are fully adjustable to enable students with visual impairments to type at the most suitable font size and colour.

Highlighters

A useful research tool that allows students to collect and collate information from the internet and documents. Once research is collected, the colour-coding in the end document creates the correct level of contrast for those with visual impairments or visual stress.

Learning needs

Hearing loss

[Take a tour](#)

How OrbitNote Helps

Text-to-speech

Due to the visual element created with dual colored highlighting, students with hearing loss can track and follow content easily.

Talk & Type

Students can use dictation to complete text boxes, notes and comments - all of which can be read aloud ensuring wider access to input methods.

Learning needs

Motion and dexterity challenges

How OrbitNote Helps

Text-to-speech

Some students with a physical disability or manual dexterity challenges may not be able to sit or work in one position at a screen. With text-to-speech, students can listen to course content being read aloud, rather than reading from a screen.

Text tool

Students can now use PDF content in the same way they would use other document types. The text tool allows the student to type on any area within a PDF, using keyboard entry or voice typing. Font can be resized, and text entry is supported with predictive text. All text entered can be read aloud with text-to-speech.

Learning needs

Motion and dexterity challenges

[Take a tour](#)

How OrbitNote Helps

Voice note comments

Voice notes are a great way for students to leave notes and feedback in a document without having to type or print.

Where a physical disability or manual dexterity challenges arise, voice notes support the student in responding and completing work without external support from a support/learning mentor. It also enhances the ability to communicate with a tutor/lecturer.

Students can use voice notes as a self-reviewing tool, while working on assignments, adding voice amendments rather than written.

Multiple means of input

Students are provided with a range of ways to input text and notes including typing, drawing, handwriting and dictation. Where a physical disability or manual dexterity challenges arise, students can now use a range of input devices and types to match their needs.

Download a quick reference card

[Windows](#)

[Chrome](#)

[Mac](#)

For more information on Texthelp tools for higher education students

visit: text.help/orbitnote-dsa-academy

or email us at dsagroup@texthelp.com.

