

# Disability Resources Faculty Updates ~ Winter 2015

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Disability Resources is beginning a new feature for faculty... an overview each term of what's new in DR, tips in working with DR students, etc. You may contact us for more information.

## DR Updates

- All Letters of Accommodation (LOA's) are now automatically sent to instructors by email when students request their accommodations with DR. It's important to review these LOA's, but you do not need to take action until the student contacts you.
- Students are required to contact you to discuss how to work out the details. Some accommodations are between you and the student; others are prepared by DR.

## Formatting Materials for Accessibility

Students with wide-ranging disabilities use accessible technology programs. Did you know that the way you format Moodle and course documents can make a huge difference in readability for students who use screen reader programs? This is especially true for blind students. Moodle is often inaccessible with certain screen readers, which read straight across the page. Where there's a graph or image, screen readers will be able to recognize an image or graph *only* if there are embedded captions.

- Using "Styles" (Title, Heading1, Heading2, etc.) can assist visually-impaired students easily navigate through a document to find what they need—much the way sighted individuals quickly scan a document to look at headers and bullets. It's not hard to do, but does take some forethought. Check out: [Using Styles for Accessibility](#) to guide you.
- You can check the document's accessibility in Word2010: [How to Check Accessibility](#)
- For Moodle, keep in mind that larger fonts will assist many students with reading course materials. For accessibility tips for Moodle: [Moodle Accessibility](#)
- The ATC is an excellent resource to assist you in developing access-friendly materials.

PCC has put together a great instructional video outlining [Classroom Accessibility](#)

## Importance of Showing Captioned Videos

For students with hearing loss, it's vitally important to make sure that all videos shown are captioned. If you're linking to a video on YouTube, we would advise checking the captions for accuracy. The AutoCaption feature used can often be incorrect. You can click on the  symbol to check the accuracy. You may contact Disability Resources for assistance.

## In the First Person: Dyslexia and Technology

EM is a student who has used Dragon Naturally Speaking throughout her course studies:

**I know I can...** I have been told not to confide this problem [dyslexia] to other people. Many keep it as a dark secret...because some people feel that if others know you have dyslexia they won't think you're capable of accomplishing certain things. I've tried to be honest with my shortcomings and realistic with my strengths....

OK I have trouble spelling. I love writing even though I have trouble with spelling. With some help from tools and people who understand I have learned that dyslexia does not have to be the thing that keeps me from succeeding but actually helps me find new ways to succeed. I am capable and I will succeed but I'm the one who needs Dragon (speech-to-text program). I'm the one who sometimes needs someone to read to me (also text-to-speech programs). I'm also the one who tries. (EM, AAOT Business)

For more information on Dyslexia: [College Students With Dyslexia](#) and [US News: Colleges and Dyslexia](#)