

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

1. 2 Consent forms
2. Recorder & extra batteries
3. Clip Board
4. Pen
5. Highlighter
6. Laptop
7. Interview guide

Thank you for your willingness to do this interview with me. I have a consent form here from George Mason University to make sure that certain procedures are followed and that your rights are protected.

Go through the form with the participant.

Is it alright if I tape record this interview? May I turn the recorder on now? Thank you!

Introduction

Integrating computers into writing classes can be daunting to many teachers. This study is an attempt to explore insights about computer integration including:

- What experiences have Language Arts teachers had using technology with students during the writing process?
- What are different ways that Language Arts teachers use technology with students for writing assignments?
- What, if anything, has caused difficulties while using technology with students during the writing process?
- What strategies, if any, have facilitated student use of technology during the writing process?
- What environmental factors affect student use of technology during the writing process (both positive and negative)?

To understand your perspective better I will start with some basic questions

*Assistive Technology and Writing Interview***Pilot interview****Participant situation****Experiences****Strategies & Materials****Problems****Considerations****Suggestions**

ZoAnne & Paul Z= ZoAnne P= Paul I = Interviewer

	Question	Field notes ZoAnne	Field notes Paul	Transcription
1.	What is your current teaching assignment?	<p>a. Lang Arts- Grade 11</p> <p>b. Gen Ed?</p> <p>Teaches language arts grade 11 – five to nine years</p> <p>Has taught language arts for sixteen years</p>	<p>Practical arts</p> <p>High school</p> <p>grades 9-12</p>	<p>I: ok... it is uh</p> <p>P: Sunday</p> <p>I: October the 19th and I'm sitting here with ZoAnne and Paul. And we're going to do some talking....OK. We've taken care of the consent forms. Thank you for your willingness to do this interview with me. Basically this study is talking about integrating computers into writing classes and how it can be daunting for teachers I want to find insights into computer integration</p>

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

				<p>including what kind of experiences Language Arts teachers have had using technology with students during the writing process, what are different ways that Language Arts teachers use technology with students for writing assignments, what if anything has caused difficulties while using technology with students during the writing process and what strategies if any have facilitated students use of technology during the writing process and what environmental factors affect student use of technology during the writing process both positive and negative so basically it is all having to do with the writing process and how to use technology and ways you can use it and if you have found better strategies, What kind of problems</p>
--	--	--	--	---

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

			<p>have you have had, or drawbacks and that sort of thing.</p> <p>Do you have any questions?</p> <p>Z: No, not at this point, as a high school teacher when I think of computer technology in the writing process, it's most generally word processing that we're dealing with so that is technology in that in word processing software students get certain aids within the software program, so the spelling things, and the grammar checks are certainly helpful to students at the high school level. Beyond that in terms of computer technology it is the Internet and that comes into play with research type of assignments that high school students have to do</p> <p>I: Right</p> <p>Z: when they are writing those kinds of papers. So Technology in</p>
--	--	--	---

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

			<p>my experience that's the predominant way I used technology.</p> <p>I: OK</p> <p>Z: For the writing process</p> <p>I: so using the Internet for research and using the word processing programs and spelling and their allowed to use grammar check?</p> <p>Z: grammar check, of course</p> <p>I: Oh really?</p> <p>Z: well it's part of the programs and so they, They don't always know how to use them but they...</p> <p>I: Ok ...sometimes we turn them off</p> <p>Z: uhhuh</p> <p>I: the grammar check</p> <p>Z:No not when they are doing their own assignments, because they're usually in terms writing, the writing assignments, they tend to have to do them on their own, at the high</p>
--	--	--	---

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

			<p>school level, now what we do in class is we , do practice and we do review and at the level I teach, you're doing a lot of review because they know format and structure or they're expected to Already be familiar with format and structure of writing and the fact that it is a process, I do not use technology, and it's certainly something I'm interested in ways to use technology in the early stages of the writing process and that's where Inspiration comes to mind and I have been introduced to that and I have not used it extensively with my students in fact when I was first introduced to it I think that I used it and not since. So While inspiration I know is a software that's available that students will use, I'm more often working with students who have their habits in place, at the upper</p>
--	--	--	---

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

				<p>level high school classes. Or age levels, students have their habits in place so that in terms of technology I'm not going to be using a lot of newer... Well I don't know if I'm not going to be using newer methods or technologies, but I can certainly see... then it might be good for me as a teacher to start using some of the prewriting types of programs that might be a way to enhance my teaching of writing.</p> <p>I: ok</p>
2.	How long have you been in this assignment?	5-9 years	Thirteenth year	<p>I: ok so you're a language arts teacher right</p> <p>Z: yes</p> <p>I: and your grade</p> <p>Z: 11th grade</p> <p>I: OK , special Ed or general Ed</p> <p>Z: it's general Ed with a lot of second language learners, lot of</p>

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

				<p>second language learners, and this is all in mixed classes so and of course students with IEP's and 504's which provide whatever their accommodations might be I need to incorporate.</p> <p>I: ok and how long have you been in this teaching assignment?</p> <p>Z: I have been teaching 11th grade exclusively I think for the last 6 or 7 years</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>How long have you taught?</p>	<p>15-19 years</p>	<p>Sixteen years- First three primaries one and two grades</p>	<p>As a teacher for 16 years. I have been teaching 9-12th I have taught 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade English at the high school level. The last 6 or 7 years almost exclusively 11th grade.</p> <p>I: Oh Wow! Great and so how long have you been teaching?</p> <p>Z: Sixteen years</p> <p>I: OK, Paul, How about you?</p> <p>Comment: as I addressed Paul, he had been daydreaming</p> <p>P: I'm not a language arts teacher I'm practical arts</p> <p>I: Practical Arts?</p> <p>Z: MMMMM</p> <p>I: and Grade level?</p> <p>P: High School, ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades</p> <p>I: Ok and how long have you been doing this assignment?</p> <p>P: This is the start of my thirteenth year</p> <p>I: Wow,</p>

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

			<p>P: That assignment I: and before that, no... how long have you taught altogether?</p> <p>P: oh boy, let's see, two years, no three years before that, so for a total is that sixteen years? The first three years were teaching prime area elementary first, second grade.</p> <p>I: OK and so do you ever use computers and to do writing about the practical arts.</p> <p>P: I use computers mostly to show , stream training videos specifically, of practical skills that are required for my students to perform. Ummm as far as word processing I do use because part of the curriculum also involves students creating resumes</p> <p>I: ok, that would definitely be a language arts kind of thing.</p> <p>Z: Language arts</p> <p>I: there is a connection he he he he.</p> <p>Z: Mmmhumm</p> <p>I Ok And when you use the computers do you also when they're are using the word processing so they also use the spelling features and grammar features and that sort of thing/</p> <p>P: Spelling yes grammar, not so much because its because it's a resume its more bullet points, single sentence maybe two sentences. To describe work experience or general education</p>
--	--	--	--

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

4.	Describe the different ways you use computers with students?	Uses word processor Internet research Inspiration -used in the past Interest in technology as prewriting aid	Use computer-Training videos Practical skills Word processing resumes spelling- yes. Not grammar Online job applications	
5.	How often do your students use computers for writing?	One time weekly- word processor and Internet,, resources, dictionary	Two times a semester Resume Job application Five days per year	
6.	Describe how a student reacts after being allowed to use computers for their written work? Why?	Students love it 95% prefer computers for writing For draft Teacher concern about students not doing writing process Have tried to prewrite sessions-on paper	Students show preference Start handwriting No templates They have a Ku? Er-Online Resume service Web based application	

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

	<p>How?</p>	<p>Not successful</p> <p>Downside after starting on computer- few go direct to Internet rather than thinking for self</p> <p>Internet as a crutch</p> <p>Not worried about the word processing tools-spell check grammar check</p> <p>Error still there</p> <p>One issue of a problem with using computers- the students must remember their login and password and takes time for this computer to boot up</p>		
<p>7.</p>	<p>Describe a successful writing project</p>	<p>Personal narrative- Our story-Easy-will complete</p> <p>Battle with them on the process</p>	<p>Job applications</p>	

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

	<p>using computers?</p> <p>Student Environment</p> <p>Task</p> <p>Tools</p> <p>Other Materials</p>	<p>Revising an editing Don't put time in</p> <p>Not successful</p> <p>Concern-surfing the Internet</p> <p>Students love to gather info - hard time incorporating And working ? into their own document Struggled to complete assignment</p>	<p>No</p> <p>See end prod</p>	
8.	<p>Describe a computer writing projects that you might like to implement with your class?</p>			
9.	<p>Describe some strategies that can facilitate the use of computers in a class of students?</p>			
10.	<p>Describe a way</p>			

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

	that computers can help students demonstrate writing skills?			
11.	In what ways have you found computers helpful?			
12.	What are some of the difficulties with using computers in writing class?			
13.	How do you handle integrating the computer as a student tool into	<p>Smart board- Wonderful Share sites Teacher created activities</p> <hr/> <p>School based software</p> <hr/> <p>Show examples</p>		

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

	your class?	Review Interactive games and review More for warm up activities because doesn't coincide with taught information		
14.	Describe a class environment, what would make it easier to use the computer as a student tool?	Computer lab with smart board- Do mini lessons Then student Independent writing School has labs available for reservations One time per month Two times month Discourage from signing labs out for extended periods	Computer labs- Reserve when time for resume and job Discourage from signing up for long blocks of time Availability Impractical for his shop	
15.	Describe a school environment, what would facilitate the use the computer as a student tool?	Currently - Situation ok	Very small portion of class admin encouraging more computer use for simulation They want students to read plans then build	

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

16.	If you could make one change/addition to your classroom to enable you to use the computer as a student tool, what would it be?			
17.	In your estimation, what are the most important features of a computer for student use? Why?			
18.	Which features			

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

	<p>should be blocked from student use? Why?</p>			
19.	<p>What do you know about assistive technology?</p>	<p>Students need technology to get through requirements of course-Computer or laptop for notes</p> <p>Hand writing issues Machines to hear audio books AT for students Special needs for communication</p> <p>Not direct use</p>	<p>Personal level With disabled niece-communications</p>	
20.	<p>What are your thoughts about assistive technology?</p>			
21.	<p>Describe a student who should be</p>			

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

	<p>allowed to use assistive technology.</p>			
<p>22.</p>	<p>What would it be like to have one or more students using assistive technology in a writing class?</p>			
<p>23.</p>	<p>What do you think would be necessary in order to effectively use assistive technology with students who have special</p>	<p>In her school- Assistance make sure it is working and student has access to devices</p> <p>General Ed- Concerned about the curriculum</p> <p>General Ed needs to verify</p> <p>A few students over sixteen years Computer for note taking or to complete assignments</p>	<p>Only seen secondhand-sign language interpreter</p> <p>Eyesight</p> <p>Hearing</p> <p>Manipulate tools</p> <p>Colorblindness disability</p>	

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

	needs?			
24.	Teacher/student attitudes			
25.	Materials			
26.	Environment			
27.	Community			

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

28.	<p>This interview is to help me learn about how to interview and to find out what participants think about the questions. How do you think this interview could be better?</p>	<p>Pluses and minuses</p> <p>Allow participants to see the questions ahead</p> <p>Rather than having so many questions with separate parts, keep together</p> <p>Is this SOL writing on computer for general education Internet available ?</p>		
29.	<p>Are there questions that could be worded more effectively?</p>			
30.	<p>Are there questions that</p>			

Assistive Technology and Writing Interview

	should be eliminated?			
31.	What could make this a better experience for a participant?			
	Thank you for your help!			