Susan Kenney

After the survey responses from the middle school Language Arts teachers, 2 or 3 teachers who volunteer will be interviewed. The consent form will explained and if the participant signs it the Interview will proceed.

May I turn the tape recorder on?

Introduction: Thank you for completing the survey and volunteering for this interview! As you read in the consent form, I am exploring adult attitudes towards the use of computers and assistive technology for writing. The targeted population for assistive technology is students who have an IEP with accommodations in the area of written language. For both middle schools, our district has purchased a software program called ReadWrite Gold that can be used with Microsoft Word. It is a toolbar with features that can help students who struggle with writing. Integrating computers into writing classes can be daunting to many teachers. A key to software integration is, knowing how teachers feel about technology in general and specifically, their understanding about and experiences with assistive technology.

In order to best introduce this software to teachers and students, I need to know:
❑ Feelings of Language Arts teachers about students using computers for writing,
  o Positive
  o Negative

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❑ Understandings of what assistive technology is and how it is used,

❑ Feelings about assistive technology,

❑ Experiences and challenges that our teachers have encountered with trying to

   use technology with students,

   o   Positive

   o   Negative

❑ Experiences and challenges that our teachers have encountered with trying to

   use assistive technology with students,

   o   Positive

   o   Negative

❑ Solutions they have found,

❑ And strategies that have helped them use technology and/or assistive technology

   more effectively with students.

Do you have any questions?

   I need to start with understanding more about you.

Interview Questions

1.   What is your current teaching assignment?
 	
    a. Lang Arts   Grade
 	
            6   7   8
 	
    b. Special ed? Gen Ed?	

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3.	How long have you been in this assignment? a. 0-4 years 5-9 years 10-14 years 15-19 years 20 + years	
4.	How long have you taught? a. 0-4 years 5-9 years 10-14 years 15-19 years 20 + years	
5.	Describe the different ways you use computers with students?	
6.	How often do your students use computers for writing?	
7.	How do students react after being allowed to use computers for their written work?	

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8.	Describe a successful writing project using computers?	
9.	Tell me about your ideas for computer writing projects that you might like to implement with your class?	
10.	What are some strategies that can facilitate the use of computers in a class of students?	
11.	Describe a way that computers can help students demonstrate writing skills?	

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12. In what ways have you found computers helpful?	
13. What are some of the difficulties with using computers in writing class?	
14. How do you handle integrating the computer as a student tool into your class?	

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15. Describe a class environment, what would make it easier to use the computer as a student tool?	
16. Describe a school environment, what would facilitate the use the computer as a student tool?	
17. 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?	
18. In your estimation, what are the most important features of a computer for student use? Why?	

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19. Which features should be blocked from student use? Why?	
20. What do you know about assistive technology?	
21. How do you feel about assistive technology?	
22. Describe a student who should be allowed to use assistive technology.	

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23. What would it be like to have one or more students using assistive technology in a writing class?	
24. What do you think would be necessary in order to effectively use assistive technology with students who have special needs?	

Teacher/student attitudes   Materials   Environment   Community

Thank you for your help!