**Assistive Technology:**
Tech Tools for Students with Learning Disabilities: Infusion into Inclusive Classrooms

**Types of Computer Supports for Writing:**

**Talking word processors** are word processors that read typed language out loud. Most programs have spellcheck included. These strengthen the students’ writing by allowing the student to hear, as well as read, what is written.

**Word prediction** is when a device uses what the student has already written in order to suggest options for what to write next. This involves having a dictionary built in that can learn words. It also allows the user to type abbreviations that the program recognizes and then expands into their full form. (e.g., if you typed ‘omw,’ the program would expand it to ‘on my way’)

**Portable note-taking devices** provide a way for students to take notes using keyboards instead of pens/pencils. These devices can also save notes for the student to access later.

**Prewriting organizers** help writers overcome mental blocks to writing by giving them a starting point for their writing. These organizers can help writers come up with topics that will help kick start the planning their writing.

**Multimedia prewriting prompts** are prompts that allow for different methods of communication to be used in the prompt in order to help the student understand and communicate effectively. They can include both text and pictures.

**Recommendations:**

- To enable students with learning disabilities to participate to their full potential during group work, you can use assistive technology. This will keep the distribution of group work even among the group members.
- Collaborate with assistive technology specialists in order to create a successful experience using assistive technology (Quenneville, 2001).
- Respond to the students’ reactions to assistive technology. If the student is uncomfortable or resisting using certain technologies, cater to the needs of the student and the factors affecting their participation and performance in the classroom.
- Multimedia prompts are recommended for use with students who struggle with literacy skills or lack background knowledge on a specific subject.

**Critique of Article’s Approach to Assistive Technology:**

- I enjoyed the focus that the article had on writing. I think each technology included had a place in the schools and I found myself content with the spread of types. For example, the article hits on auditory learners, visual learners, and learners who struggle with the kinesthetic aspect (physically writing).
- This article had a great overview, but I was looking for more than just suggested technology programs to use in the classroom and descriptions of the technologies. I was looking for ways to use the technology, who to use it with, and the effect technology has on the classroom.

**Resource:**