

Tips for working with students with physical disabilities

a. Lend a hand.

Do your best to accommodate students who need assistance with visual or physical tasks (signing in, finding a table). Walking a visually impaired student to and from their appointment or to a table is a courtesy that we should provide as needed. Help to keep pathways in the WRL clear for wheelchairs, and assist students who need to work at adjustable work stations.

b. Recognize technology challenges

Inquire about the technology that your student may be using to accommodate his/her disability. Knowing the challenges that the technology presents and resolves is important in your development of expectations for the student.

Some students with physical disabilities may request that you work with their writing at a work station due to the nature of their disability. Please consider accommodating this request. If you absolutely cannot tutor at a computer work station, please ask the WRL coordinator or Instructional Aide to assist in printing out the student's paper for tutoring purposes.

c. Provide clear, usable tools to assist further growth

In the event that your student cannot record comments by hand due to a disability, please find an alternative way that the student can record the comments. This can include: letting the student use a laptop, an audio recorder, or stickers to put on the paper or in the book to mark areas to address.

If you write anything for the student, please refrain from writing on the student's paper for class. Instead, write out a list of things the student should address on a separate piece of paper. Here is a sample list that a tutor might write up for a student after a tutoring session:

- i. Work on your thesis – add adjectives that strengthen your point.*
- ii. Body Par #2: look for verb forms. Remember rules we discussed for regular and irregular past tense. Remember be+verb+ing.*
- iii. Topic sentence of Body Par #3 is missing.*
- iv. Body Par #4: Correct run-ons in this paragraph. Add some more details. The quote needs to be cited correctly.*
- v. Conclusion: don't just restate what you said in the intro. Suggestion: think about the future of your proposal, and what will happen if we don't adopt it.*