This learning guide is designed for use by Professional Learning Communities, learning coaches and teacher leaders or as a self-paced study to explore how technology can support student success.

Word prediction technology

Use this conversation guide after viewing the video clip, **Word prediction**

General synopsis

In this brief video, Dr. Christopher Lee, a leader in the field of learning disabilities and adaptive technology, talks about the potential benefits of word prediction technology.

Key understandings

- Word prediction technology can help students find a word to use in their writing that they probably wouldn't find if they weren't using the application.

- Word prediction technology creates a profile of the user based on spelling, syntax and frequent or recent use. This prompts struggling writers to use proper spelling, grammar and word choices, with fewer keystrokes.

- Word prediction technology enables students to feel more comfortable when writing and helps them write faster and more accurately. Using word prediction can also help boost their vocabulary.

- Word prediction technology can act as a stepping stone to using speech recognition (or speech-to-text). Word prediction can also be used in combination with speech-to-text and text-to-speech.

- When used effectively, technologies such as word prediction can reduce stress and frustration for some students.

Questions for reflection and discussion

- Do you think word prediction technology challenges the idea that everyone needs to work hard to learn writing basics, regardless of their learning limitations? Why or why not?

- What would you say to a student or parent who said word prediction technology gave some students an unfair advantage?

- Would knowing that a student is using word prediction technology likely change the kind of feedback you give on the student's writing? Why or why not?

- If it was used by a majority of students, do you think word prediction technology might ultimately lead to deterioration in the quality of writing? Why or why not?

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