

Video Transcription: Celeste's Testimonial

So my learning disability, essentially, has a few parts to it. I have a very difficult time organizing my thoughts when I have to write them down. So for instance writing an essay is more difficult for me than it would be for other students. I have a difficulty with sequencing information, if you were to give me a list of words, I would have a hard time giving you the same list in the same order that you gave them to me. I have a difficulty with reading and decoding, and a very hard time recalling information that was given to me only once, specifically if it was given to me orally.

One of the easiest things for professors to do is actually to put their slides or their notes for class, before the class. I will often print those out and read them once before class just to get a better understanding as to what is going on for that class. Or even just putting notes online at all is very helpful. Most of my classes this semester don't actually have their slides or PowerPoints online and it would be very helpful for me to have those. So clearly giving me enough time to have to write an essay is important for me, so if you have the outline and the marking scheme online already or in the syllabus then I can start when I need to start to write this essay and give you quality work. No one knows me better than me, so it's easier if you just put it on at the beginning of the semester and I start when I know I need to start to give you 15 pages by a certain date. Another great thing is letting me use technology in class, either a combination of my computer and a recorder, or a recorder and handwritten notes or a variation of that is really helpful to me because I then I take time afterwards to review those things to make sure that I have understood the lecture to the best of my ability.

It is important for me that professors allow me to have extensions on work. I know it is not always easy for them, but I am sure that once they are done correcting 70 essays they can probably get to mine last if, you know, ideally. Because again it does take me a long time to get through writing essays, and if I have several essays due around the same time, having an extension for one really helps me be able to juggle time well enough so I can complete the essay in due time and am able to sort of get the better grade out of it. Another key thing is to respect the University's policies on adaptations, not wanting me to type something is not an excuse, and I need to type it. You a) will not be able to read my handwriting and b) the spelling would be so bad that you would probably not understand anything anyways. So I know that in language classes it is especially difficult for them to accept me typing, but there are programs that don't allow spell check to happen on a Word program. So it's still Word, it still looks like Word, but there is no way anything was underlined during that process so it is not really putting me at an advantage, it is making me equal. So it is really important that if the point of the exercise is to find my errors, I am still doing the objective, I am still completing the objective of the assignment, just in a different way.

Easiest thing for me is if you don't rip, like don't go very quickly through your slides, I have enough time to process the information, come up with a response that makes sense and ask a question. I understand that PowerPoint is very good, but sometimes they will have a slide and then what they are saying has absolutely nothing to do with their slide and I am now processing two different kinds of information that don't necessarily fit together very well. So if your slides flow well with your presentation then that helps me a lot. But if your slide is sort of extra amounts of information that I have to process while sitting down in the classroom it becomes difficult specifically if the slides aren't provided to me either before or after the class then I have a hard time sort of, because I have to write what is on the slide and listen to you and take notes. So that three balancing act is kind of difficult.