



How can I start making accessible content?

Discussion Guide

Discuss

1. Mark cites education statistics that indicate approximately 11% of incoming students have a disability. However, only 3-5% of these students self-identify and request accommodations. Why do you think there's such a discrepancy between the numbers of students with disabilities versus the number registered with Services for Student with Disabilities?
2. Christa recommends that we be proactive by adopting accessible instructional materials. What are you currently doing to ensure your instructional materials are accessible? What might be some new practices to adopt?
3. Have you used accessibility checkers?
4. What are examples of alternative formats and why might students need these?
5. What is your greatest challenge in making your course content accessible? How can you adopt the "Plus One" mindset that Christa and Mark describe?
6. Christa and Mark advocate for UDL—Universal Design for Learning—principles because they actively include people with disabilities and make learning available to the broadest possible audience. In addition to the proactive measures we take, we need to recognize that there may be needs we haven't anticipated. How can we help students self-advocate, and thereby co-construct accessible learning experiences?

Learn more

The Office for Accessible Technologies provides a wide range of services including inclusive media, assistive software and consulting, guidelines for web accessibility, and professional development. Explore the full range of services at <https://www.assist.vt.edu/>.