

Media Technologies for People with Disabilities

Assistive media technologies are devices that assist individuals who are hearing-impaired or vision-impaired. Examples include radio reading services and the closed caption option on televisions. Voice recognition software is an example of an adaptive media technology. Other examples of adaptive technologies are large-print computer keyboards or joysticks that enable physically disabled people to use a computer. Use the activity below to explore these assistive and adaptive technologies and discover how they are made to serve or to be used by people with disabilities.



© Billy E. Barnes/Photo Edit

ACTIVITY

Using your school or public library as a resource, research how a particular media technology is used to assist disabled people, or research how a technological device, such as a computer, has been adapted for use by vision- or hearing-impaired individuals. Prepare an oral report that explains how the technology works, how it is used, and by whom. Include visual aids that help illustrate the technology or device you researched. Present your oral report to the rest of the class.

EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS

What can you do to assist a fellow student who is vision- or hearing-impaired? Consider providing reading or writing services for someone who is vision impaired, or learning some basic sign language to help you communicate with hearing-impaired classmates. Write a one-page proposal that suggests how you and your classmates can provide assistance to students with disabilities.