Tips for Increasing Accessibility (Part One)

- Be familiar with the resources available to you!
- Consider flexibility in camera policies
- Flexibility in the options for participation in class/meetings (e.g., verbally or through chat)
- Provide materials and agendas ahead of time
- Make it clear what to expect
- On campus:
  - Consider the physical layout of office/classroom/meeting space
  - Incorporate accessibility into your event planning
    - Include captioned videos
    - Consider sensory sensitivity
    - Provide directions for events that are clear and direct
    - Microphone use
Tips for Increasing Accessibility (Part Two)

• Language
  o Believe people when they disclose a disability
  o Identity-first versus person-first language
  o Mirror the language of others
  o Avoid euphemisms (e.g., “handicapable”)
  o Avoid outdated language (“wheelchair-bound”)
  o Watch out for language that makes assumptions regarding ability (“it’s not that far to walk”)
  o “You’re so lucky you get to park close/have extended time/bring your dog”
  o Shifting away from “do you have special needs”
    ▪ What are your access needs
    ▪ Accessibility is important to us. If there are any ways I can make this class/outreach/meeting more accessible, please let me know

• Normalize disability and accessibility by thinking of disability community when we frame classes/events/meetings and proactively asking about accessibility

What are other ways we can increase accessibility within the UTD community? What would make your experience here most accessible?

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Tips for Increasing Accessibility
(Part Three)

Resources at UTD

- **Office of Student Accessibility** – Office within Student Affairs which provides support and accommodations for students with disabilities
- **UTD Accessibility Resources** -includes accessible parking information and UTD policies regarding accessibility
- **Accessibility Resources** in distance education through the UTD eLearning Team
- **Fusion** - Assistive technology tool available through UTD for download. Offers screen reading and magnification.
- **Office of Information Technology** – UTD Electronic and Information Resources
- **Report an Accessibility Barrier on Campus** – to report barriers you experience or observe on campus to the UTD ADA Coordinator
- UTD Universal Access ERG - [Virtual Event Checklist](#)
- **Accessibility Services Provided through the UTD Library:**
  - Screen reading technology (JAWS) – must be utilized at library
  - Large print keyboards – potentially can be loaned out
  - Conversion of documents to magnified PDFs
  - Accessibility Librarians – available for consultation regarding ways the library and UTD can informally provide accessible resources
- **UTD Student Counseling Center**

Other Resources

- [Disability Visibility Project](#)
- [Rooted in Rights](#)
- [Access is Love Reading and Resource List](#)