

# An Apple A Day and Beyond

## *Breakthrough Technology for Individuals with Disabilities*

Presented by

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For the past 26 years, I have worked with VI students. During this time there have been tremendous gains in the area of technology. However, most of the equipment and programs are expensive and designed for congenitally blind students. This left my low vision students frustrated with programs that were hard to learn, couldn't keep up with their academic needs, often crashed school networks, and had a tendency to be lacking in tech support. By sheer accident I came across what I feel is a true breakthrough in technology for low vision student – The Apple Computer!

I have been using Apple Computers for the past 2.5 years with 8 of my Low Vision high school and middle school students. It has not only increased their independence but it has become a major tool in their transition beyond high school and into the college, job, and adult settings. Last year, we finally had to share our amazing discovery and we have now broadened the scope to include LD & CD students and VI Adults, who also feel that this is amazing technology.

So, What makes it so fantastic that my students won't want to give it up? Let us show you!!

- The **built in Screen Enlarger** enlarges everything on the screen with one click. It is part of the operating system so it works on all programs loaded into the computer (even your electronic bank statements & Turbo Tax!) with one simple command
- The **built in Screen Reader** will read text, including the Internet & e-mail with one click.
- Students can download their audio books and class notes into the computer or iPod. No more waiting for books on tape or finding a reader. The students are **independent** – they can do it all themselves without waiting for books to come in or for someone else to read or enlarge materials for them.
- Textbooks can be scanned into the computer then enlarged or used with the screen reader - and they are in color not black and white like the cumbersome, expensive large print books. Textbooks on CD are enlarged in full color with just a click.
- Above all, it **doesn't isolate the students** to a corner of the library or resource room where the CCTV, large print books, or reader is located. It fosters inclusion because the laptop can go where the student goes, and the other students can utilize it as well.
- The Word for Mac program works just like Word for Windows and it can transfer between both systems - Students don't have to learn how to operate a new system. The new Macs also support Windows programs without any modifications

- **Voice Over** enables you to have everything on the screen read to you, including items in pull down menus. When combined with the built in Text Editor, students can hear what they are typing.
- Tech support is fantastic! Just a phone call or Internet click away, and someone is there to help!
- It doesn't make them look different, it's CHEAPER than add-on peripherals, it's SIMPLE, and IT WORKS!
- **It takes 1.5 minutes to learn**
- This technology transitions students from high school to college or a job and beyond –  
**Not by just leveling the playing field but moving them beyond their peers!**

What is the Down Side?

According to Maggie Johnson: "People's stereotypes and misconceptions about Apple!"

What do you need to get started?

Any Mac computer that is 3 years old or less using OS X Tiger (or the new Leopard due out soon!)

**EVERY MAC COMPUTER HAS THIS TECHNOLOGY ALREADY BUILT IN!**

What equipment have my students been using?

➤ Apple laptop computer	\$1400
➤ Cannon CanoScan scanner with OCR	\$ 149
➤ iPod (students purchase themselves)	0
➤ iTalk voice recorder for note taking	\$ 59
➤ Money we save on large print books, and aides to take class notes	priceless

How easy is it to use?

Once you turn on the voice and zoom (takes 20 seconds) follow these steps:

**Screen Enlarging:**

- To make screen larger – hold option, apple keys and then press + sign
- To make screen smaller – hold option, apple keys and then press – sign

**Screen Reading:** Reads Word Docs, Internet, email etc. **Not JPEGs**

- To make the screen read:  
Highlight information (apple, A will highlight the entire page)  
Hold your command keys (option, apple S)

**Text Edit:**

This will read what you are typing

- Open System Preferences (icon with apple and light switch on the dock)
- Click Universal Access (bottom right corner)
- Click “Seeing” at top of box
- Click “Voice Over” ON
- To change options go into “open Voice Over Utility” Set your options
- TO TURN VOICE OVER OFF / ON HOLD fn, apple F5 keys
- Open Text Edit ( under Applications menu)
- As you type in the box it will read as per your settings.
- You can spell check and save in Text Edit OR you can highlight the entire document, cut and paste it to a word document and save it to your files

**Shortcut Commands**

- F9 – puts all applications on your desktop - then click on the one you want to open
- F10 – opens all documents in a specific application (ie Word)
- Apple A – highlights all of your text
- Apple X – cuts
- Apple C – copy
- Apple V – paste
- Apple P – Print
- Apple S - Save