

These materials provided as a dowload through Synapse-ADA.com.
Synapse-ADA.com is your one-stop
provider of adaptive and assistive technology solutions.



SYNAPSE-ADA.com

INTEGRATED ACCESS SOLUTIONS

Synapse Adaptive
3095 Kerner Blvd.
Suite S
San Rafael, CA 94901
Tel. 415.455.9700

Tel. 800.317.9611
Fax 415.455.9801
www.synapse-ada.com
www.unixspeech.com
info@synapseadaptive.com

Research

Draft:Builder®

Draft:Builder has its roots in a long line of research at the Education Development Center (EDC), Newton, MA, on how to enable middle school students to engage actively with information as they read and write. EDC worked with teachers in two Boston-area middle schools as they became the first to implement Draft:Builder for entire classes of students with diverse needs. Analysis of the mountains of data collected has only just begun, but several things have clearly stood out from informal interactions and interviews with teachers and students. This study investigated the effects of speech synthesis on the proofreading efficiency of postsecondary students with learning disabilities. Subjects proofread self-generated written language samples under three conditions: (a) using a speech synthesis system that simultaneously highlighted and "spoke" words on a computer monitor, (b) having the text read aloud to them by another person, and (c) receiving no assistance.

Findings:

- Teachers indicated that they thought more deeply and carefully about the steps involved in a research process as a result of using Draft:Builder.
- Essentially all of our target students [i.e., those identified as special education or "struggling"] found some element of Draft:Builder that they liked: having the outline and map appear together, having a way to connect notes to an outline, not having to retype notes, not losing notes, having the structure of the outline and notes to guide the writing of the first draft, etc.
- Students produced work in their assignments that far exceeded anything they had done to that point and these students attributed their success in large part to the use of Draft:Builder.
- Teacher input and feedback was still the most critical variable in student success (no surprise there), but many target students commented on how Draft:Builder allowed them to operate more independently or to better understand the connection between the various steps in the research and writing process.