

Top Ten Challenges for Accessible Online Learning

By Dr. Debra Wright-Howard

Presentation for SDCCD Online Learning Pathways-Expo

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What do you know about Online Accessibility?

- [Link to online quiz](#)
- 6 quick questions to “test” your knowledge.....



What is the Law?



□ Section 508

- Section 508 requires that Federal agencies' electronic and information technology is accessible to people with disabilities.

□ SB 105

- ...state governmental entities, in developing, procuring, maintaining, or using electronic or information technology, either indirectly or through the use of state funds by other entities, shall comply with the accessibility requirements of Section 508

□ State Chancellor's Office

- Access to distance education courses, resources and materials include the audio, video and text components of courses ...Distance education courses, resources and materials must be designed and delivered in such a way that the level of communication and course taking experience is the same for students with or without disabilities.

Accessibility and Usability

- Web accessibility is defined as:
 - ...accessibility to the Web [so] that all people, regardless of their physical or developmental abilities or impairments, have access to Web-based information and services.
- Usability is defined as:
 - [the] efficiency with which a user can perform required tasks with a product, for example, a website.



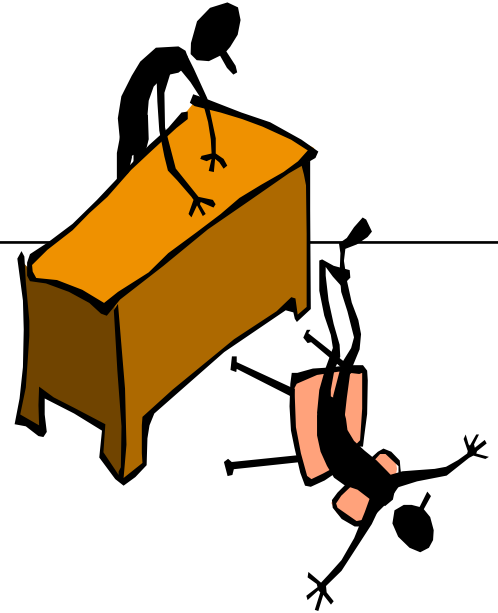
3 Common Error Areas



- Captioning
 - All multi-media presented in real-time
 - Difference between synchronous and asynchronous
- Hyperlinks
 - Clear notations
- Alt tags
 - Use for all graphics, icons

My Top 10 Challenges

- ❑ 1. Word documents
- ❑ 2. Powerpoints
- ❑ 3. Pdf's
- ❑ 4. Office Hours chat
- ❑ 5. Graphics, tables and charts for Math
- ❑ 6. Video, multimedia
- ❑ 7. Links to internet resources
- ❑ 8. Limited Time
- ❑ 9. Limited Knowledge
- ❑ 10. Limited Resources



WebCT Accessibility

- ❑ Frame based format-don't add the problems
- ❑ Alt tag all images that you use in WebCT
 - Applicable to CE and Vista editions
- ❑ Provide an alternative to required “chat”
- ❑ Check your e-packs for original files that may need to be modified
- ❑ Realize it may take extra time for some students with vision disabilities

Word documents (.doc documents)

- ❑ Alt tag all images
- ❑ Use a simple CSS
- ❑ Keep things simple and clear to follow
- ❑ Provide a table of contents with hyperlinks for larger documents
- ❑ Table markups maybe necessary



Pdf documents (.pdf documents)

- ❑ Generally not accessible
- ❑ Use an OCR process-allows for Read Aloud feature
- ❑ Provide an alternate format for the pdf document
- ❑ Adobe Acrobat has accessibility checkers



Powerpoints (.ppt files)

- Notes section
 - Explain your slides
 - Accessible to screen readers when downloaded
- Alt tag all images
 - Brief descriptions
 - Use the “” null tag when only decorative
- Use [Powerpoint Wizard](#) ([University of Illinois](#))
 - Graphic version
 - Text only version



Delivering Course Content

- ❑ Think in terms of *universal design of all course materials
- ❑ Use Html format
- ❑ Keep it Simple
- ❑ Instructional Design Checklist
- ❑ Accessibility Checklist


*the design and production of products that promote equal opportunity for use by individuals with or without disability



Where to get help

- College Access Technology Specialist
 - City College: [D. Wright-Howard](#)
 - Continuing Education: [Andre Ryssemous](#)
 - Mesa College: [E. Higginbotham](#)
 - Miramar College: [R. Mojica](#)
- Web Resources
 - [@ONE](#)
 - [WebAim](#)
 - [EASI](#)
 - [DO-IT](#)





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