



Website context: Thinking about Dyslexia → Teaching

Spelling, expression and structure: quotes from dyslexia screening interviews

Spelling:

“I write what I want and hope the spell check picks it up. I think it picks up most of them but no matter how many times I look through it, I won’t spot any errors.”

“In exams especially if I come to a word I can’t spell I can spend quite a while trying to re-jig the sentence to try and avoid it. But then it’s not really how I would like to say it. I sometimes think my writing sounds like a child has written it.”

Expression

“I spend ages chopping and changing the bits of the sentence around and I’m still not sure if it’s said what I want to say.”

“I think I’m ok at sentences. I like to spend time making it sound as I think a university essay should sound.”

“I can spend ages thinking of the right word. I know what I want to say but the word won’t come. I use the thesaurus, or sometimes end up ringing up my mum to say what’s another word for so and so.”

Structure

“It depends on the essay. I try to choose a title where it is clear what you have to do.”

“In my subject, the structure is usually the same, so once you understand how to write it, it follows the same pattern each time.”

“I have so many ideas and everything is linked to everything else, so trying to put it in an order feels impossible. I shoot off on a tangent and don’t realise and then don’t know how to carry on.”

“I have to write down everything I want to say as it comes to me and then sort it out afterwards.”

“I can’t start until I know where I am going, so I plan what each paragraph is going to say.”

Quotes about writing in general

“The thoughts of doing a dissertation just feels like such a huge mountain to climb. It is this massive task and I don’t know where to start.”

“I just can’t get started. I dislike the thoughts of writing so much. I put it off and put it off until the deadline is really close. Then I get really frustrated because I can see all the things I could have done with it if I’d had more time.”

“My friends seem to be able to start a little while before and still get a good mark. I start weeks and weeks before, as soon as we get it, and I’m still working on it right to the deadline. My marks are no better than my friends even though I’ve spent ages on it.”