


Creative Problem Solving: Multi-purposing the “Box”

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People with disabilities are constantly problem solving:

- Adapting existing tools/devices to serve new/additional purposes
- Simple is better
- Cheaper is better
 - Unless you have unlimited funds, you never know for sure if you'll find a “payer” for new equipment
- Non-specialized equipment is better than equipment that is so specialized that it is only useful to a very discrete demographic
- Examples

Student Perspective: Assistive Technology and Reasonable Accommodations

Academic Accommodations based on Assistive Technology

- Hardware
 - Ergonomic/Alternative Input Devices
 - Braille ‘n Speak
 - PDAs
- Software
 - Voice Recognition
 - Screen Readers
- Alternative Format Materials
 - Braille
 - E-Text
 - Audio (MP3s, CDs, audio cassettes)

Academic Accommodations Based on Services (i.e., human- based services)

- Note takers
- Live Readers
- Lab assistants
- Library Assistants
- Scribes
- Sign Language Interpreters
- Real-Time Captionists

Physical/Facilities Based Accommodations

Assistive Technology in Facilities

- Power doors (with either “smack” buttons or remote controls)
- Height adjustable tables (powered and manual)
- Adjustable (ergonomic chairs)
- Horns and strobes fire alarms
- TTYs

Facilities (continued)

Static Accessibility Adjustments (many are required by code since the ADA)

- Lowered light switches
- Lever hardware on doors
- Braille signage
- Counter heights (33 or 34 inches from the floor)
- Raised toilets
- Grab bars in bathroom stalls
- Grab bars in tubs and showers; variable height/hand-held shower head
- Roll-in showers with built-in bench
- Pedestal tables

The Reality Check

- Regardless of what one's "rights" are, on a practical level the person with a disability must be flexible
- Must be able to figure out multiple ways to accomplish tasks, with and without assistance, if possible
- Must be able to explain with high level of detail exactly what is needed, whether in regard to services or tasks that need to be accomplished