

Written dissertation replaced by two oral presentations and two short essays

Student with dyslexia

University of Reading. Humanities

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Presenting situation:

The student had great difficulties with communicating his excellent ideas in writing and would have been seriously disadvantaged by having to write a 12,000 word dissertation. He was a good student and the department were concerned that he should be able to present his ideas in a way that would reflect his academic ability and creativity.

I was involved in the discussions about what would form an appropriate alternative to a dissertation and was able to convince the department that showing a development in the analytical processes behind the research was possible in an oral presentation.

Alternative assessment:

The 12,000 word dissertation was replaced by

- 1) a series of two oral presentations showing the development of his ideas over two terms
- 2) two short essays:
 - a) a literature review
 - b) a discussion

Outcome:

The module is now on offer to any student in the department, but with a limited number of places, and with priority given to people with Specific Learning Differences.