

Student Self-Advocacy Conference Guide

Use fictional examples. Leave out diagnoses, medical information, names, passwords and contact details.

Learning goal: Support learner requests without making advocacy a condition of access.

A learner's written request for more processing time has not been heard. Confirm the message, implement a feasible support and name an adult follow-up responsibility. Use a fictional or de-identified example here; the learner controls what to share.

1. Use a fictional example or discuss the situation without identifying a child.
2. Complete each planning section with the learner's choices at the center.
3. Select one feasible change, who will provide it and when you will check it.
4. Keep any completed paper privately; do not use it to diagnose, rank or label a learner.

Grades 3–5 support: Use the prompts and examples, or explain your ideas in your own way. Ask for words, a scribe or one direction at a time.

Understand the goal and access

Confirm the message, implement a feasible support and name an adult follow-up responsibility. Separate the thinking goal from an access barrier.

Meaningful learning goal or interest

Barrier or preference to check with the learner

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Choose an action together

Invite the learner's response in their preferred communication mode. Choose one feasible change and an adult responsibility.

Learner's choice or question

Support action, responsible adult and timing

Optional deeper thinking · Grades 6–8

Compare two support choices for the same intellectually demanding goal and identify how the learner's preferences shape the decision.

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Review and keep it respectful

Students need not disclose a diagnosis, speak publicly or become assertive to receive support. Decide how you will check the support with the learner, not just compliance or speed.

Evidence of access or participation to look for

Review question and next adjustment

My next step

What will I try, and who can support it? Write, draw, dictate, sign or use AAC.

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Accessibility & alternative responses

Use selectable text, clear headings, AAC/partner-assisted participation, read-aloud or large print as chosen. Keep completed plans private; no diagnosis or medical details are needed.

Teacher facilitation

Confirm the message, implement a feasible support and name an adult follow-up responsibility. Students need not disclose a diagnosis, speak publicly or become assertive to receive support.

Specialist formats

These printouts are not Braille. Embossed Braille and specialist tactile materials need qualified, technically validated production. The accessible digital version supplies structured text, not a specialist-format substitute.