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## Transcription Neil Cole, UNB

**Introduction:** A video in which Neil Cole, Academic Advising Support Coordinator at UNB Fredericton, talks about his experiences in accommodating students with dyslexia.

How did you accommodate a student with a disability in your class?

I had a student who could discuss the weekly assigned readings really well, he was really good at arguing the concepts—he knew them, he was demonstrably bright, he was a smart kid. But when it came to his written work, the calibre wasn't the same. It just wasn't the same type of work and he didn't give me a reason for why that was when I would give him feedback. But once I got to see his handwritten exam, then I could see some patterns that I recognized from a cousin of mine. So, I approached him about it, just using honest terms. I explained what I had noticed and I simply recommended going to the Accessibility Centre to see what supports were available for him. Once he did that it was confirmed that he had dyslexia and it was just as simple as working with him, knowing that he has a writing challenge and being more lenient on things like spelling and grammar. It's something that he has to work harder at and often he doesn't recognize that he has a word spelled wrong. So you just need to recognize that this is a different case than a normal student. It was that simple, really.

How was the experience from your perspective?

It was pretty positive, I think. Especially once we knew that he had a challenge, an academic challenge, and it was identified and there were ways we could overcome it together. We were both empowered with the knowledge that he had a unique challenge in the classroom and for his written assignments and it was really about working together and understanding that it's different.

What would you say to a colleague who will have a student with a disability in his or her class?

I think you need to be observant and get to know your students, at least a little bit and recognize that different students have different challenges and sometimes you need to accommodate those challenges and create unique solutions for those students. It's not really difficult to do if you're understanding and willing to work with that student. It helps create a fair learning environment.