



# First Person: WHITNEY

## Teaching in the Twenty-First-Century Classroom

I work in a secondary life skills classroom and have obtained my bachelor's degree in special education. I have technology available, including a smartboard in my classroom and two iPads to use at my discretion.

Individual students also have a range of assistive technology, including AAC devices. One technology I have increasingly incorporated into my life skills instruction is actually an audio recorder to provide audio prompts to students as they engage in life skills in the

community independently, such as grocery shopping. I found an inexpensive audio recorder is more age-appropriate and promotes independence more than picture prompts. I—or the students—can record our grocery list, and then during our weekly outing to the local grocery store to purchase items we use in the classroom, such as for cleaning, hygiene, or cooking, students use the audio recorders to prompt them on the list. The audio recorders have increased my students' independence.

**—Whitney Bartlett**

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