RESOURCES – SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- **Read and Write Gold** – Seneca has a site license for Read and Write Gold. This subscription-based program offers many tools to support students. Seneca students can use their Seneca email to access Read and Write Gold. Some of the features of this program include:
  - The ability to use the text to speech feature to support reading different materials
  - Highlighting with the ability to extract for notetaking and summary making
  - Word prediction that looks at English word algorithms to support writing in English
  - Check-it tool provides an explanation when reviewing grammar. It is not just a click and fix option; it can aid in English language development.

  https://www.texthelp.com/en-us/products/read-write/#

- **Adobe Spark** – Seneca offers students free access to this program, and students can log in using their Seneca email. This tool allows students to develop various deliverables including infographics, and presentations with both audio and visual elements. This tool could aid in the diversification of your assessments.
  https://spark.adobe.com

- **A buddy system** can empower students of various skill sets and levels to support each other to complete an individual assignment through peer support. With regards to completing a written assignment, consider adding a step to allow for partners to collaborate and review/discuss their assignments together and provide feedback. This is not a group assignment where the final grade would be shared. Individual grades can be assigned for the final deliverable, with the potential to add additional grades for the peer editing phase. Being mindful of academic integrity, requesting the partners to demonstrate their "editing" and other methods of collaboration such as a video conference can be a way to track the process and contributions.

- **Discussion boards / Wiki** – To aid in comprehension of key messages from the readings, review of the materials through group/peer discussion can add clarity through knowledge sharing from many participants. Furthermore, this function can be a formative assessment for the Professor to proactively measure understanding of the materials.

- **Facilitated discussions** – To support the student's learning, providing discussion questions may assist the student to extract the important key messages from the readings.

- **Alternative assessments** – Diversity is key. Is a written assessment the only method a student can demonstrate knowledge to fulfill the learning outcomes? Is an oral exam, or video submission a reasonable alternative? Or perhaps a visual presentation using such tools as Adobe Spark. Could an authentic assessment, a project that is reflective of tasks in the student's future workplace, demonstrate the knowledge to fulfill the learning outcome and function as a portfolio piece for the student?

- **Detailed assignment briefs** – Be as specific as possible to map task completion in manageable steps, breaking each phase of an assignment down into in-class exercises, and individual phases, working towards task completion. Feedback throughout this process could aid in the completion of a task to guide the students in the right direction towards a summative assessment.

- **Additional variables to consider**:

  - Time zone differences – If requesting synchronous learning
  - Access to technology
  - Scaffolding in learning – Designing multiple steps to compartmentalize assignment briefs, building on each previous step towards task completion of the final deliverable
  - For testing/exams – The student may not have a private space within the home to write the test uninterrupted
  - Accessibility – Ensuring captions are included in the videos, and audio of slides when possible. This will empower the student to work from their strengths and further develop other skills as required
  - Provide readings and presentation materials, such as slides, in advance of the lesson to allow the student more time to review the material to encourage active participation

ABOUT READ AND WRITE GOLD

Here is the link for installing Read & Write Gold https://www.texthelp.com/en-us/products/read-write/

Once on the website:

1. Select Try Now >
2. Select the device on which you would like to install Read & Write Gold
3. Once installed, select log in with your Microsoft Account and use your **Seneca email address**.

A few tips:

1. For reading, place your mouse cursor where you would like to start reading and press the Play Button.
2. Reading the web. Open a web browser. The Read the Web extension will appear (you may need to select "Yes" to install it). Select the word you would like to start reading and press the play button
3. Use the screenshot reader whenever you have an image or the play button is not working. Select the screenshot reader and create a box around the text you would like to read.

Steps for using the PDF icon:

1. Select the PDF icon from the Read & Write Gold Toolbar

2. A pop up box will appear where you can select the PDF file you would like to open.
3. Your document will open in PDF Aloud
4. Place your curser where you would like to start reading and it will start reading.

Additional Features:

1. Use the arrows on your keyboard to speed up and slow down the voice, after you have selected the text you would like to read. The up arrow will increase the speed. The down arrow will decrease the speed.
2. Select the text you would like to highlight, then select the highlighter colour you would like to use.

3. Use the collect highlights to transfer your highlights to a different document.

ABOUT ADOBE SPARK:

Adobe Spark: Seneca College offers students free access to this program. Here is how you will log in. To be able to work on one project together, a student will have to log in using the credentials of one group member, which would allow everyone to work on the same project. This team member, similar to a google doc, can invite the other team members to access the project and collaborate.

This is an incredibly intuitive, accessible program. You can utilize one of the existing templates to guide your efforts or design your own presentation. Students can design presentations with both audio and visual components, thus, further supporting diversification of the assessment and providing the students with a tool to explore.
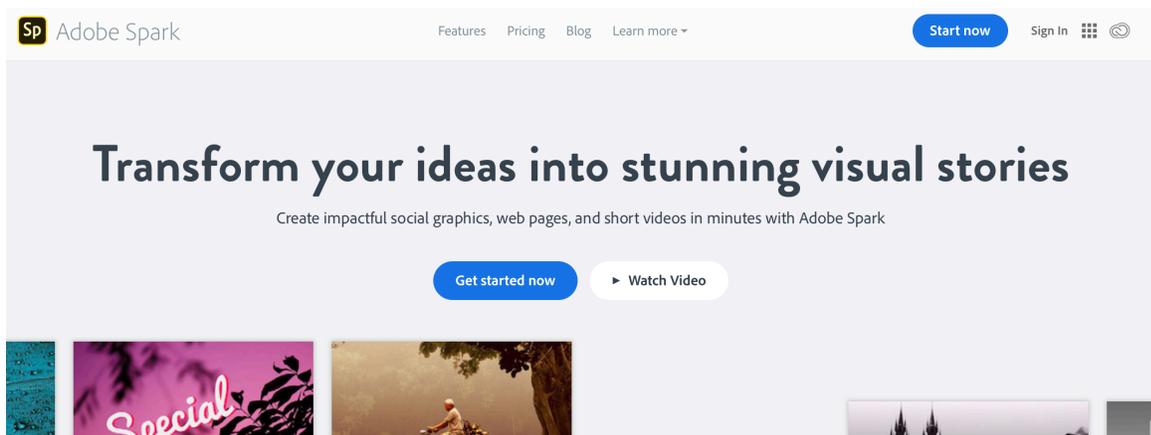
You will use your Seneca email account information to log in.
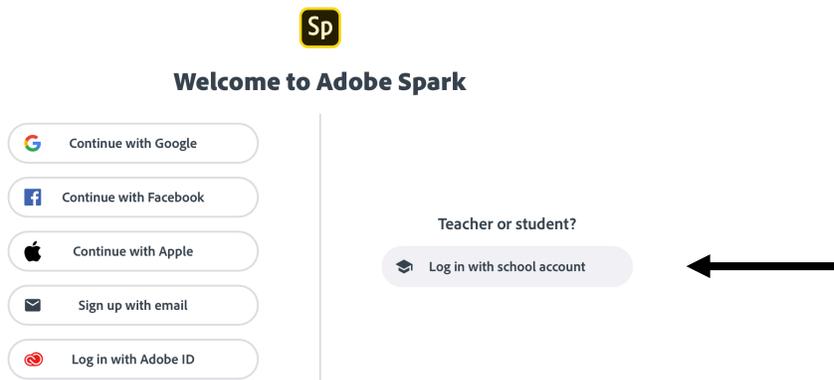
HELPFUL TOOLS:

How to invite team members: https://adobespark.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360025186174-How-do-I-collaborate-on-Spark-projects-

Video design: https://spark.adobe.com/sp/npw

As you learn to utilize this tool, here are a few links that may support your efforts. http://open2.senecac.on.ca/sites/creative-spaces/adobe-spark/.

ITS's Adobe Creative Cloud info: https://inside.senecacollege.ca/its/software/adobe/

IMPORTANT: Access to Adobe Spark is an educational resource through Seneca College. Beyond an assignment deliverable, please remind students to download the project and save it to a cloud or external drive for your future portfolio needs.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO LEARN HOW TO USE A BLACKBOARD WIKI:

Instructions below are sourced from:
https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Instructor/Interact/Wikis

Comment on a Wiki page: Course members can comment on Wiki pages. Comments provide a way for students to offer feedback and suggestions. Comments are visible to all course members. The total number of Wiki comments are counted in the Wiki Details section in the sidebar.

No one can edit comments after they're posted. Course members can delete the comments they wrote.

All course members can read group Wikis by default but you must be a member of the group to make a comment. You can change the default setting to allow only group members to view a group Wiki.

1. Access a Wiki topic and select the page to view in the sidebar. The Wiki page opens in the content frame.
2. Select comment below a contribution and type a comment. You can use the spell check function at the bottom of the box as needed.
   Comments have a 2,000-character limit. A pop-up message notes that comments over 2,000 characters must be edited and resubmitted.
3. Select Add.
4. To view all comments, select the numbered Comments link.