Challenges and Barriers in the Needs Assessment (Case study)

[00:00:00] **Meghan (Needs Assessor):** So it has been really great finding out about all of these things that you're really good at, like project management and time management. If we can start exploring some of these things, you find a bit more challenging, we can hopefully try and make some recommendation for different tools and strategies and assistive technology that might be helpful for you.

So when you're at university, one of these things that you spoke about was finding it a little bit tricky to read back through code. Do you find reading challenging in general?

[00:00:30] **Adam (student):** Yeah. it just takes me ages I have to really concentrate and then I read something and I don't understand and I have to read it again and again. And when it doesn't go in I kind of give up a bit.

[00:00:48] **Meghan (Needs Assessor):** And does that happen when you're reading any type of books or is that specific to particular things?

[00:00:58] **Adam (student):** No any type, I can read the words, it's just trying to workout what it's saying

Yeah, really understanding

[00:01:02] **Meghan (Needs Assessor):** that sort of meaning behind the words can be quite tricky, especially when you've got to make notes and remember everything and maybe it has to be something that will be in the exam or in your projects going forward.

Totally, let's say I don't get to reading,

[00:01:19] **Adam (student):** this bit and then it's still in your exam, it's like oh gosh, what does it mean?

[00:01:26] **Meghan (Needs Assessor):** Definitely that's really, it can be really tricky, especially with this so much reading on different courses. What about other things aside from reading? Is there anything else that we might be able to support you with?

[00:01:39] **Adam (student):** Um, we have to like do a lot of written work

and I find that like so annoying like it takes me ages to get stuff down and my spelling is a bit rubbish if i'm honest and I hate doing any written work but there's so much of it it just takes me ages to do.

And what

[00:02:05] **Meghan (Needs Assessor):** kind of written work are you doing, is it essays or projects or what kind of things are you doing?

[00:02:10] **Adam (student):** Loads of essays, loads of think I've got 5 at the moment on the go. (Meghan: WOW) They've got to be like 5000 words. or 4000 words, I hate it.

And is there

[00:02:29] **Meghan (Needs Assessor):** anything particular about when you're writing those essays that you find a bit tricky

[00:02:36] **Adam (student):** I never know where to start getting going always take me ages really. I know what I want to say most of the time, it's just getting going.

[00:02:53] **Meghan (Needs Assessor):** And what do you, when you, when you do start on an essay, what do you open up? What's the first thing you do when you want to go and start your essay?

[00:02:59] **Adam (student):** I spend ages

looking at a blank document

[00:03:10] **Meghan (Needs Assessor):** Just a blank word doc?.

[00:03:15] **Adam (student):** And then stick the word introduction up as that's what comes first I guess. But that doesn't always help.

[00:03:22] **Meghan (Needs Assessor):** And in your mind, is that the first thing you're thinking about? Have you got your ideas for your introduction in your mind, or have you got ideas for the whole thing in your mind.

[00:03:32] **Adam (student):** Yeah, I know what I need to like cover in the essay it's just,

getting going yea, hate it.

There's definitely some things we (Adam starts to expand), go on,go on.

Then I get distracted.

[00:03:49] **Meghan (Needs Assessor):** What do you get distracted by?

[00:03:52] **Adam (student):** Anything other than getting words down.

It's so easy to

[00:03:57] **Meghan (Needs Assessor):** get distracted, especially when we're staring at a blank word document. There's definitely lots of things that we could try. Lots of different strategies and tools that we can put in place. Some that might help you to get started with your writing and some that might help you with your writing.

I think we sort of mentioned that structuring and reordering things and putting them in the right places. How do you find spelling and grammar and all of those types of things within your essays?

I've always got loads of red lines,in my work, it frustrates me when it happens, but yea.

Definitely

It's not great, some days it bothers me more than others. I can get really fixated on getting the word right. and then I forget what I'm trying to say.

That's also really annoying.

Especially when you're in the flow and you've got started on your essay and want to get all the things down and seeing lots of red lines can be quite difficult. I wonder if, if maybe there's something we can do, that is a specific tool that would help you with your spelling and grammar. So we'd have less red lines on the page.

[00:05:08] **Adam (student):** That would be great.

[00:05:10] **Meghan (Needs Assessor):** Brilliant. Let's talk about those specific strategies then.