

Persona

	<i>"I know the answer—I just need a better way to write it down. It's frustrating because the ideas are there in my head, but getting them onto the page feels like the hardest part."</i>	Goals • Successfully complete homework without feeling exhausted and mentally drained • Document his mathematical thinking and solutions clearly and independently • Maintain academic integrity without feeling like he is at a disadvantage	Pains • Struggles with writing complex equations manually for extended periods, leading to slow and inefficient work • Existing tools are ill-suited for STEM notation, and relying on peers for note-taking often results in misunderstandings • Experiences exhaustion and discomfort from prolonged writing sessions, fearing it may cause him to fall behind in coursework
Alex Carter Age: 20 Pronouns: He/Him Education: B.Sc. in Mathematics (Honours) Interests: Data Science, AI ethics Disability: Carpal Tunnel Syndrome	Bio Alex is a 20-year-old B.Sc. Mathematics (Honours) student in his second year at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he lives on campus. Living with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, he faces daily challenges writing equations by hand, taking notes, and completing assignments efficiently. He actively searches for voice dictation tools to support his STEM coursework but often finds existing options ineffective in understanding math symbols or poorly suited to his coursework.	Workarounds • Arrives early to class to discuss accommodations with instructors • Relies on a combination of typing, speech-to-text, and note-sharing with peers • Uses assistive technology when available but finds them lacking for STEM-specific tasks • Participates actively in study groups to verbally process concepts and reduce writing workload	Tools • Pencil Grips to reduce strain on fingers • Graph paper for aligning numbers • Speech Recognition Software • Google Docs voice Typing • Apple Dictation • Equatio Chrome extension • Voice typing • Ipad • Assistive Touch • Apple Pencil • General Portability

Demographics

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Education: B.Sc. in Mathematics (Honours)

Interests: Data Science, AI ethics

Disability: Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Quote

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Pains

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