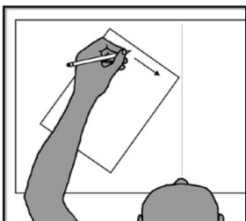


Tips for Left-Handed Students*

*things we take for granted in a right-handed world

- Problems
 - Writing smudges because of hand dragging across text
 - Writing hand covers written text
 - Lefties often resort to awkward positioning and inefficient writing grasps compensate
 - Letter formations taught for right-handed are difficult for left-handed (create 'push' rather than 'pull' movements, pull is a more natural movement, push is harder to control)
 - Scissors built for righties are mechanically harder to use for a lefty and cover the target line
- Solutions
 - Handwriting/drawing
 - Tilt paper to the right so it is parallel with forearm and position to the left of midline
 - Keep wrist straight, hand below writing line
 - Hold pencil a little higher to keep hand from dragging on text or try a scribes grasp (pencil between index and middle finger)
 - Form letters pulling pencil toward hand (may change letter formations)
 - Place text to copy on top of or to the right of writing space
 - Use loose leaf or write on the left page in books (binding does not interfere with hand)
 - Using a finger-spacer strategy is awkward for lefties, try a spacer-stick
 - Mirror writing and reversals may be more common and persistent (allow additional time and visual cues to remediate)
 - Cutting
 - Cut clockwise around shapes
 - Left-handed scissors (left-blade on top) makes a difference
 - Know which students are lefties!



Tilted paper to the left of midline, straight wrist, hand below writing line



Scribe's grasp



Inefficient positioning with bent wrist



Left handed formation (left), Right handed formation (right)