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## My Love of Writing

*by David Chappel*

My love of writing began to flourish later in my life. Throughout high school, I knew I was an inadequate writer and felt embarrassed. During this time, I tried to avoid writing, making my writing skills deteriorate even further.

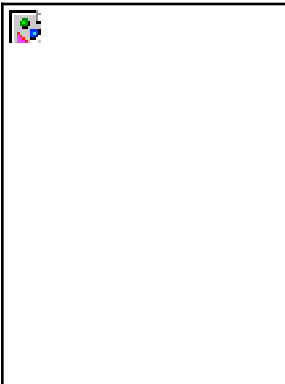
My intention for after high school was similar to that of my fellow classmates: to attend college. College presented me with the opportunity to develop my writing abilities. My university offered writing courses, in which the professors individually reviewed my writing and made suggestions for improvement. Their instruction inspired me to write more and to register for courses that required writing, such as Communications and Anthropology.



Around the time my writing skills were improving, I received my first communication device, the Liberator. As I grew proficient at communicating quickly, I was asked to speak at conferences. I utilized my acquired talents to share my feelings and experiences about Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).

My successful debut opened doors to other engagements in the field of AAC. I presented a paper at the 2000 ISAAC conference regarding managing personal care attendants when relying on AAC. By focusing on my life experience, I aimed to prevent others from making similar mistakes. I have also written research oriented pieces, including a collaborative effort with the AAC Institute on research of workplace related vocabulary.

Regrettably, I did not begin to write properly until I started my college career. Despite this, I hope my writing has made a difference for people who rely on AAC. My aspirations are to continue to improve my writing while contributing to the development of AAC.

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