STUDENT VOICES from AP CSP
Addressing Challenges Related to Organization and Planning

About Our Student Partners

Over the 2016-2017 school year, **13 student research partners** enrolled in AP Computer Science Principles (CSP) at Wolcott School shared their successes and challenges in the course during every-other-week interviews with the Outlier research team.

Keep in mind that while our student partners were enrolled in an AP CSP course using the Code.org curriculum, the challenges they identified could occur in *any* high school CS course and for *any* student, not just those with diagnosed learning and attention disorders.

164 total student interviews

STUDENTS:
- were in 10th – 12th grade.
- had varying levels of prior experience with computer science.
- had at least one diagnosed learning or attention disorder.
  62% ADHD/Executive Function,
  54% Writing, 46% Reading,
  31% Math, 15% Language.

What We Heard: Common Challenges Related to Organization and Planning

My issue is with organization. Not only that, but I'm having trouble with something and it's like, instead of do it, I literally just kind of put it to the side for now. It's bad, but I do it.

Students were often not sure where to start on a large project, or how to actually begin doing the work.

Earlier in the semester I forgot to turn in some stuff. So my grade sunk like a rock for a bit…I have this habit of forgetting to just turn in things.

It was hard for some students to prioritize and manage their work time.

Some students had trouble keeping their class work organized.

Organization and Planning was a challenge for 6 of the 13 students in the AP CSP course.

How to Help

Addressing **Organization and Planning** Challenges in CS Classrooms

The following recommendations are informed by research-based practices for supporting students who learn differently, combined with the practical expertise of our team learning specialists and study findings.

Engage in frequent check-ins with students to provide time for **direct and specific feedback** about work, and to provide opportunities for students to identify sections where they might be getting stuck.

Supply tools (e.g., **graphic organizers, project templates, and task checklists**) to assist students with organizing their thoughts, and breaking down projects into smaller tasks.

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