

Revolutionary Device Removes Limitations for Students with Dyslexia in the Classroom

Students with physical impairments and learning disorders can now freely and confidently complete their notes, projects and exams alongside their classmates

NEW YORK, USA, April 24, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Speech recognition](#) is extremely beneficial for students with physical and [learning disabilities](#) however it has been inconsistently implemented in the classroom over the years. The latest speech technology has improved by leaps and bounds in regards to ease of training and use. It is now surpassing human accuracy rates. If you haven't used speech recognition with your students lately it is time to take another look.

“

Comfortable and effective device! This works great in the classroom. I can confidently take voice notes without bothering anyone around me”

M. Shain

There are two major issues students and teachers face when using speech recognition in the classroom. Privacy and accuracy.

How can a student use their voice in a classroom setting without being overheard by fellow students and at the same time eliminate all the chitter chatter and background noise that goes with it to attain optimal speech recognition accuracy rates?

Steno SR is a private speech recognition microphone that enables students to privately write with their voice in the classroom and have what they wrote read back to them with near perfect results. When combined with any speech recognition software (such as Dragon Naturally Speaking, Google Voice Typing, Apple Dictation or Windows 10 speech recognition software) it provides a seamless user experience that is both completely private and accurate.

We are seeing a dramatic increase in educators embracing this technology in the classroom. Students with physical impairments and learning disorders can now freely and confidently complete their notes, projects and exams alongside their classmates thus giving them a leg up as speech recognition dramatically improves productivity and engagement.

People that can benefit from Steno SR include users with:

- Learning disabilities, including [dyslexia](#) and dysgraphia
- Repetitive strain injuries, such as carpal tunnel syndrome
- Poor or limited motor skills handwriting or using a keyboard is difficult or not an option due to low vision or physical impairment
- Vision impairments
- Physical disabilities
- Limited English Language

The benefits of Steno SR for students with disabilities include improved access to the computer, increased writing skills, improved test scores and grades, increased independence, decreased anxiety towards writing and improvements in core reading and writing abilities. Improved access in the classroom

For students with motor skill limitations, physical disabilities, blindness/low vision, or other difficulties accessing a standard keyboard and mouse, hands-free computing through the use of speech recognition technologies are extremely beneficial. By removing the physical barriers to writing and navigation of the computer, you can increase student access to technology and classroom activities. Speech recognition software also includes text-to-speech features, the student can hear their text read aloud to them and correct their errors more independently.

Increased writing skills

For students with learning disabilities, speech recognition technology can encourage writing that is more thoughtful and deliberate. Studies with middle and high school students with learning disabilities have shown that input via speech is less challenging and that students frequently generate papers that are longer and better quality using speech recognition technologies.

Steno SR used in conjunction with a documentation program such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs reduces the difficulties that students face with writing mechanics. Because students can write naturally with speech recognition it eliminates potential obstacles such as difficulty with handwriting or the need to transcribe thoughts while brainstorming. Often writers with learning disabilities will skip over words when they are unsure of the correct spelling leading to pieces of writing that are short, missing key elements, or not reflective of the student's true abilities. Speech recognition and word processing alleviate these concerns by allowing the student to get their thoughts out without worrying about these or other technical writing components.

Increase test scores and grades by decreasing anxiety

Steno SR removes the fear associated with writing tests and completing assignments. Test questions can be read aloud to the student eliminating any confusion concerning their connotative meaning while answers can be completed via voice without being overheard thus allowing the student to confidently complete tasks in a timely, grammatically correct and organized format.

In addition to allowing the student to work in a more independent manner, Steno SR allows students to voice write without fear of being overheard helping them avoid the anxieties associated with feeling embarrassment about their writing.

For students who are English Language Learners or are learning a second language it allows them to practice pronunciation in a safe, low-stress environment. Students can engage in multiple repetitions of an unfamiliar word without worrying about feeling embarrassed.

Increased independence

For students with physical disabilities, poor motor skills or learning disabilities, a human transcriber or teacher assistant is a low-tech solution for the classroom that allows the focus to shift from the physical act of writing to expressing thoughts and knowledge. However, a transcriber makes the student dependent upon a teacher or aide for writing tasks. Students who use transcribers for writing often report spending less time planning and organizing because they felt they were keeping the transcriber waiting, or felt embarrassment about making mistakes or asking for multiple readings of what was written. Using speech recognition allows the student to be more independent in their writing and other academic activities.

Improvements in core reading and writing abilities

Steno SR can also serve a remedial function for students with learning disabilities in the areas of reading and writing. In allowing students to see the words on screen as they dictate, students

can gain insight into important elements of phonemic awareness, such as sound-symbol correspondence. As a student speaks and sees their words appear on the screen, the speech recognition directly demonstrates the relationship between how a word looks and sounds. This bimodal presentation of text can be especially helpful for students with learning disabilities, and is thought to be why speech recognition has been found effective in remediating reading and spelling deficits.

Another key benefit is the error correction process. As the text is recorded it requires user to check the accuracy of each word uttered as sentences are being dictated. When an error is made the student must find the correct word among a list of similar words and select it. This process necessitates that the user examine the word list closely, compare words that look or sound alike and make decisions about the best word for the specific situation. This can give kids a boost in reading and spelling as they learn to discriminate between similar words.

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