

Software to Support the Development of Writing Skills

Co:Writer 4000 (Mac/WIN)
Don Johnston, Inc.
www.donjohnston.com
\$325.00

A word prediction program that attaches to a word processor and allows the user to reduce the number of keystrokes needed to input text by predicting the word desired in a range from 1 to 9 choices. The program predicts from flexible (invented) spelling and has text-to-speech capability.

Draft:Builder (Mac/WIN)
Don Johnston, Inc.
www.donjohnston.com
\$149.00

A framework for users to organize their thoughts and information as they prepare a first draft. The program supports the first steps in the writing process and allows for creation of bibliographies and transfer to a word processor for full editing.

Kidspiration (Mac/WIN)
Inspiration Software
www.inspiration.com
\$69.00

A visual organizer for young students and students new to the writing process. Students can hear text entered into the program spoken, and instructors can record directions in their own voices.

Inspiration 7.5 (Mac/WIN)
Inspiration Software
www.inspiration.com
\$69.00

A visual organizer and outliner that assists users to bring order to their writing. The program can produce flow charts and concept maps as well. Students can hear text entered into the program spoken, and one transfer button sends created text and diagrams into a word processor.

IntelliTalk 3 (Mac/WIN)
IntelliTools, Inc.
www.intellitools.com
\$139.95

A word processor that speaks text put into it, with a variety of voices and speech options available. It is possible to create one's own toolbars and lock text to design lessons and activities.

Write:OutLoud (Mac/WIN)
Don Johnston, Inc.
www.donjohnston.com
\$99.00

A word processor that speaks text as it is typed in, with several speech options available. The program blinks a visual alarm when a word is misspelled during entry, and the spell checker speaks the choices aloud for easier selection of the correct word.

The Writing Trek (Mac/WIN) – Levels 4-6, 6-8, 8-10
Sunburst
www.sunburst.com
\$99.95 (Lab pack of 10)

The program engages users in multimedia language arts projects based on real life uses of writing. The authentic projects are organized into six houses: Story Place, Poetry Corner, Design Studio, Research Hall, Theatre, and News Center. Lessons on sentence structure, vocabulary, and punctuation are built in. Some text-to-speech is included.