# WriteOnline review

Gayl Bowser works as an independent consultant focusing on the integration of technology into the educational programs of students with disabilities. Former Coordinator of the Oregon Technology Access Program (OTAP) and a special education teacher by training, Ms Bowser has also worked as a school administrator and holds an Oregon School Superintendent's credential. She works, regularly, with school districts to develop effective, legal and high quality assistive technology service designs. Ms Bowser provides assistive technology consultation, training and technical assistance throughout the United States and internationally.

## "More than an excellent talking word processor"

Gayl Bowser, MEd., Independent Consultant, Assistive Technology Collaborations

*As a teacher, I'm thrilled with the possibilities offered by Crick Software's new WriteOnline. This is a tool that will make it possible to adjust instruction to meet the needs of a wide variety of students without the need to create multiple lesson plans and multiple activities for students with differing needs. Teachers will be able to adjust instruction by building in supports like customized word bars and speech output for students who need it, while at the same time challenging more advanced students to stretch their learning and improve their writing.*

Crick's WriteOnline talking word processing software has so many new and unique features that it's difficult to begin to know how to start to describe them. With improved speech, word prediction, and spell checking, the application is an outstanding tool to support writing for any student. The inclusion of WordBars, comments and notes make it a tool that can help teachers differentiate instruction for writers and readers who may be struggling.

But WriteOnline is very much more than an excellent talking word processor. The software has unique aspects that have the potential to change the way teachers, students and families think about writing instruction.

Because WriteOnline is an Internet-based application, students can write from anywhere in the world. There's no need to purchase USB drives or burn CDs to transport electronic files. The files are saved to students' personal files on the web. Assignments can be started at school and refined at home with parent support. Students can actually write while they do their research with source materials and a computer at the public library.

The benefits of online writing also apply to teachers. Teachers can review student work at any time during the writing process and from any location with Internet access. WriteOnline even helps teachers in the reviewing process. The software has the ability to identify text that has been copied into a document. It even keeps track of the words that have been corrected by the spell checker so that teachers can know where to focus efforts to improve spelling proficiency.

For differentiation of instruction and for addressing the needs of all tiers in a Response to Intervention instructional model, WriteOnline has enormous potential. From my perspective, I can't wait to get started!