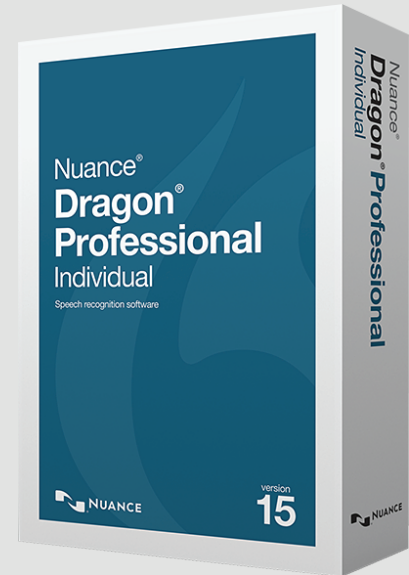


Dragon Professional Individual Justification Guide

Summary

Dragon Professional Individual is a speech recognition solution which can be recommended to support a wide range of disabilities. It allows students to dictate written work accurately and effortlessly. Dragon can support students with dyslexia and other SpLDs to help with spelling, grammar, composition and written expression. It can also provide support to students with severe physical disabilities and allow students to control their entire computer with just their voice.



Difficulties helped by Dragon

Condition	Difficulties
Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students report a 'disconnect' when trying to articulate themselves when writing - Limited vocabulary makes it harder to be concise when writing - Unable to use complex or unfamiliar terminology as cannot spell these words - The speed with which written work is produced - Struggles with homophones
Anxiety and Depression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited time to complete written work - Difficulties with written expression - Fatigue and low mood impacts quality of work - Rushing to get work done because of limited time

Condition	Difficulties
Physical Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarity of articulation impacted by pain and fatigue - Takes longer to produce written work - Rushing to get work done - Makes errors due to mobility challenges with typing - Severely limited time due to pain and fatigue - Some students cannot type for long periods of time - Some students cannot sit at a desk and type for prolonged periods of time
Visual Impairment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cannot stare at screen for prolonged periods of time due to visual impairment - Have limited time to produce written work - Some students cannot touch type and make typing errors when using a keyboard due to vision difficulties

Difficulties helped by Dragon

SpLD: Dyslexia, Dyspraxia/Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder/Asperger/Autism

Dragon Professional Individual will allow the student to side step issues with written expression, spelling and grammar which are currently slowing them down and stem from their dyslexia. The software will reduce the amount of time needed to complete essays. Dragon will be able to identify correct spellings and grammar rules based on the context of what the student is dictating. Additionally, the student will be able to dictate their ideas as they think of them without worrying about their mind going faster than their typing and spelling abilities. Other strategies were considered but Dragon Professional Individual is designed to dictate intensively and as accurately. It can be trained to recognise individual accents to ensure accurate dictation

Anxiety and Depression

Dragon Professional Individual will enable the student to side-step issues with holding ideas in memory, and general clarity of articulation, which is affected when experiencing periods of low mood and fatigue. This will complement other strategies, as text can be dictated into Word, mind mapping software, or any other application with a text field. The student can additionally work from their bed on days when they are unable to work from their computer desk because of fatigue or low mood. Other strategies were considered but Dragon Professional Individual is designed to dictate intensively and accurately. It can be trained to recognise individual accents to ensure accurate dictation.

Visual Impairment

Dragon Professional Individual was demonstrated to the student as it will be able to reduce the strain of prolonged computer use for the student. By dictating their essay with a wireless headset, the student will not have to spend as much time looking at the computer screen. At the moment, the student's eyes become strained through continuous use of the computer screen. Being able to compose essays without having to look at the screen will increase their productivity and reduce the impact of studying on their vision.

Physical Difficulties

Dragon Professional Individual will support the student when overcoming challenges with holding ideas in memory, and general clarity of articulation; which is affected when experiencing high levels of pain and fatigue and experiencing challenges in getting viewpoints into the written form. This will complement other strategies, as text can be dictated into Word, mind mapping software, or any other application with a text field. Additionally, the student can work from their bed on days when they are unable to work from their computer desk. The student can dictate her ideas when moving around their workstation, so as to hinder severe musculoskeletal discomfort. The use of a hands-free option allows student to alternate between keying and dictation.

