

Start-to-Finish Books Collaborate to Provide Talking Quizzes for Struggling Students

November 15, 2003, Palo Alto, CA —Freedom Scientific's Learning Systems Group and Don Johnston Incorporated announce a unique collaboration designed to assist struggling students with reading, learning and test taking. The joint effort between two leading educational software companies allows students and teachers to use TestTalker and Start-to-Finish books in an accessible format.

Through the use of the innovative technology and powerful features in TestTalker, the Start-to-Finish quizzes, previously available only as PDF files, are now also available as "talking" quizzes when used with TestTalker. Students who need speech support can have Start-to-Finish Gold Library quizzes read aloud with text-to-speech technology. TestTalker allows students to control the pace of the test by pausing when needed and rereading questions. Additionally, fill in blanks and multiple-choice answers will be read to them.

TestTalker is a software solution to help individuals achieve success with test taking, worksheet completion, and with study materials. It can also help people complete forms electronically. TestTalker provides a computerized version of a test, worksheet, or other form that can *talk*. The product supports success by helping students become better prepared and more self-confident in most testing formats. The bimodal approach enhances learning for many students, empowering them to become more successful.

Start-to-Finish Books are high-interest, controlled-vocabulary series of narrative books with built-in Designed-For-Success™ supports that get struggling students reading and practicing the key skill areas of decoding, vocabulary and background knowledge, fluency, comprehension and motivation. Multiple formats of each book (computer book, paperback book and audio book), support options, purposeful authoring and editing, as well as carefully-chosen book content scaffold students through the reading process so that older students that are behind in reading can learn to read.

Freedom Scientific's Learning Systems Group provides products that are acclaimed for their easy-to-use interface, innovative technology and flexible but powerful features. TestTalker was defined by educational experts to enhance the learning process for struggling students. Don Johnston Incorporated, the leader in learning intervention resources, has been providing technology tools for struggling readers and writers for over 20 years. Among these successful tools, Don Johnston Incorporated released Start-to-Finish Books in 1999 and older struggling students all over the world have had the opportunity to experience reading chapter books from many genres, some for their first time.

For more information on Freedom Scientific, Learning Systems Group, please visit: www.freedomscientific.com/lsg. Quizzes are offered as a free download on the Don Johnston Incorporated web site at <http://www.donjohnston.com/downloads>. Currently over 500 quizzes are available for download.