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## **Student Educator's Days are More Productive with *TextAloud***

*Busy Educator and Full-Time Student Finds Time for Friends, Family and Studies  
through Text to Speech*

CLEMMONS, NC – As the leading software title from **NextUp Technologies** (<http://www.nextup.com>), *TextAloud* is well known for its ability to export text to natural-sounding speech. Phoenix, Arizona-based *TextAloud* user **Carla Summers** recently found the Text to Speech (TTS) program invaluable for exporting her PDF (Portable Document Format) documents to speech for studying her course work.

As Carla and so many other users have discovered, *TextAloud* is the PC software that enables anyone to translate their reading easily from screen to sound, in natural, non-robotic-sounding computer speech. With *TextAloud*, users can export the text they want to read or study from almost any source – websites, eBooks, scanned text, and even e-mails – into sound files that play on any iPod, iPhone, or other portable device – and even in the car. In today's time-challenged (and budget-conscious) times, *TextAloud* is a benefit for multiple reasons, and never more than for those on commute.

In her work for a major online university, enrollment counselor and full-time student Carla Summers discovered this firsthand. With a packed schedule and a commute of 40-plus minutes each way, as well as workdays of 10-12 hours, her demanding schedule was leaving Carla little time for study. Working intensively toward a Master's Degree in teaching, she needed the ability to listen to her documents, many of which were in the popular and flexible PDF format, so that she could study the materials using some of that valuable commute time to do so. To accomplish this, she discovered *TextAloud* software, which easily converted her PDFs to portable audio files.

Carla had begun her search for the right tool by attempting her first solution with a more limited alternative product that read electronic books in PDF format. "This approach didn't work for me, however," she comments, "because I couldn't download the PDF files to my cell phone MicroSD Card." This meant that she was limited to doing her listening only via laptop, not using her cell as she desired – not only inconvenient, but also time-consuming.

"I found *TextAloud* and realized that the program could convert PDF files to audio files which can easily be downloaded to a portable device, including my cellular phone with a MicroSD Card," she adds. The more versatile *TextAloud* was just what Carla needed, and she began by using the program to export her study material PDF files to audio for listening on her cell, and then later upgraded to the additional option of an inexpensive but convenient MP3 player. Now, simply by opening up Windows Media Player and dragging and dropping the file to the MP3 player, Carla could now listen to her electronic class assignments on her commutes – or anywhere she went.

"*TextAloud* affords me the ability to listen to my textbooks to and from work," says Carla. "I work a lot of overtime, as well as being a full-time student, but I don't have time to during the day to squeeze in my class reading." However, with *TextAloud*, Carla can now keep up with her class reading assignments by listening them at lunch, on breaks, and (even better) on her commutes to and from work each day. "It's a great study method, and I've found that listening to my class reading assignments is like having the instructor right there," she adds. "I seem to absorb the information much better."

Carla also uses *TextAloud* to 'read' back her essays and homework assignments, using either her Samsung M520 cell phone, her Acer Aspire laptop, or her Sandisk Sansa MP3 player. "This approach is so helpful for editing and drafting final projects," she adds, "or just for listening to what you have written."

Carla's favorite feature is the fact that each time the *TextAloud* program is opened, the last reading project is automatically saved and opened up with the software. This allows Carla to

continue on in the same document she was listening to previously, and saves her valuable time in hunting for her latest files, as well. The program's ease of use for Carla was immediate, without a learning curve. "*TextAloud* downloaded quickly, and was ready to go in a flash!" she comments. "I had no problems with getting started from download to listening to my first chapter in Java programming within minutes.

On the program's assortment of optional Premium Voices, Carla comments, "I'm partial to the female voices. I also like the fact that I can change the sound of the voice with just a minor adjustment, whether for softness or loudness, or speed."

*TextAloud* has ultimately enabled Carla as a busy university professional and full-time student to free up a tremendous amount of time. "I listen to my class assignments while grocery shopping, at the gym, in the drive-thru and anytime I am standing in a line or waiting for any length of time," she comments. "It's nice that I can come home, put my groceries away and get right to my assignments – instead of reading for two hours and only *then* getting to my assignments. I have more time for friends and family, and *TextAloud* is even great for walking the dog too. Everybody wins!"

### **About *TextAloud***

Highly useful for students, scientists, writers, business people, students and people from all walks of life – *TextAloud* has been featured in *The New York Times*, *PC Magazine*, *Writer's Digest*, on CNN, and more. Hailed by critics and users alike, *TextAloud* is priced from \$29.95, and is compatible with systems using Windows® 98, NT, 2000, XP and Vista. *TextAloud* also works seamlessly with iTunes, for easy synching with iPod®, iPhone™, or other iTunes-compatible portable audio players. The program is available for fast, safe and secure purchase via <http://www.NextUp.com>.

NextUp.com also offers *TextAloud* with optional premium voices from **AT&T Natural Voices™**, **Nuance®**, **Acapela®** and **Cepstral®** for the most natural-sounding computer speech anywhere. Available languages include U.S. English, U.K. English, Indian-Accent English, Scottish-Accent English, Arabic, Cantonese Chinese, Mandarin Chinese, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Belgian Dutch, Faroese, Finnish, French, Canadian French, German, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Brazilian Portuguese, European Portuguese, Russian, Castilian (European) Spanish, Latin American Spanish, Mexican Spanish, Swedish, and Turkish.

### **About NextUp.com**

**NextUp.com**, a division of NextUp Technologies, LLC, provides award-winning Text to Speech software for consumers, professionals, businesses, educators, and those with visual or vocal impairment, or learning disabilities.

In addition to *TextAloud*, NextUp.com markets other innovative Windows software designed to save time and deliver vital information. NextUp *Talker* is an easy and affordable program that allows people who have lost their voices to use the latest in high-quality computer voices to communicate with others.

Evaluation copies of *TextAloud* are available upon request. For more information on NextUp.com or *TextAloud*, or for other case studies involving users ranging from writers, editors, and teachers, to actors, students, entrepreneurs, firefighters, doctors, lawyers, truck drivers, musicians, and more, please contact publicist Angela Mitchell at **(904) 982-8043** or via [Admitchell@Nextup.com](mailto:Admitchell@Nextup.com).

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