



VOICE WRITING

What is it?

How does it work?

Is it a replacement for machine stenography?

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Origins of voice writing

- Invented by Horace Webb, a hand stenographer, who decided in the late 1930s to begin recording his steno notes via his voice.
- Immediately faced backlash by his employers in the D.C. area
- The U.S. military took a chance on his method and experienced great success in training service members in the method to take down court-martial and other hearings. This has continued to this day.
- Mr. Webb began the business Talk, Inc. which later became Talk Technologies, Inc.

The Stenomask

- Designed and invented by Horace Webb in the late 1930s, the StenoMask™ is a device with built-in microphones which take in the speaker's voice as they dictate what is being said via verbal shorthand
- At its inception the audio recording was used as written steno notes were; the court reporter would take the oral shorthand recording and translate it into English with proper formatting
- Modern voice writing is paired with software such as Dragon NaturallySpeaking® and EclipseVox CAT software which translates shorthand into English in realtime



More than just hitting record or repeating what is being said

- You must train your Dragon
- Create and utilize briefs and identifiers that work for you and your accent (keek, kak, laisgenjur, yakam, swornsworn, ITC, delco)
- Have a great understanding of your software and address issues as they come up
- Speak up for the record
- Provide readbacks upon request or rough drafts at the end of a job
- Continue to perfect your skills and work towards providing realtime to clients or for yourself

Professional standards

- The National Verbatim Reporter's Association (NVRA) is the organization that is dedicated on a national level to the certification and advocacy of voice writing. Machine stenographers are also able to become members and certify through them. Digital recorders ARE NOT recognized as valid court reporters.
- Certified Verbatim Reporter (CVR):
 - 225 WPM QA (5 minutes)
 - 200 WPM JC (5 minutes)
 - 180 WPM Lit (5 minutes)
 - *Must achieve a level of 95% or higher accuracy in all three tests, and 70% or higher on the written exam in order to achieve this certification
- Realtime Verbatim Reporter (RVR)
 - Must pass an 8-minute 200 WPM QA segment consisting of at least 5 consecutive minutes at 96% + accuracy
 - IT DOES NOT MATTER IF YOU CAN PROVIDE 100% ACCURATE TRANSCRIPTS ON THE SPOT; IF YOU CAN BE HEARD BY PROCTORS, YOU ARE DISQUALIFIED



A VIABLE MEANS FOR KEEPING MACHINE STENOGRAPHERS IN THE GAME, AND VICE VERSA

- We all know that typing shorthand, even with good ergonomics, can result in some reporters developing injuries or discomfort in their hands, wrists, arms, or shoulders.
- Voice writing would be a good way to keep these skilled professionals in the game.