

## The power of integrating writing across the curriculum

**Writing is a critical skill that touches every aspect of your students' lives. It's also an essential teaching vehicle, applicable to a wide range of subjects. Dana by AlphaSmart is a compelling teaching and writing tool that gives you the opportunity to strengthen your entire curriculum by integrating writing into daily assignments.**

The more opportunities students have to write, the more proficient they become. Dana by AlphaSmart lets students integrate writing into every aspect of learning—a portable, one-to-one computing solution and personal productivity tool. Dana provides an individualized setting in which each student can outline, organize, create, format, and print their finished pieces both inside and outside the classroom.

In addition to core writing functionality, Dana offers tools for outlining, concept mapping, data collection, journaling, publishing, and more. Dana is based on Palm OS<sup>®</sup> so dozens of applications can be added easily (many available as free downloads) to spark creativity and reinforce students' writing skills, regardless of subject area.

Dana easily integrates into an education environment because both students and educators can quickly learn how to use it. Students embrace Dana because it's easy to use and engaging. As a result, they focus on organizing their thoughts and creating cohesive phrases, sentences, and paragraphs—skills that can help them across a wide range of subjects. Teachers can quickly integrate Dana across the curriculum and help students get the most out of new learning opportunities. Find out more about how your school can dramatically improve students' writing skills while enriching their overall learning experience. Contact your AlphaSmart representative today.



### How Dana facilitates writing across the curriculum

**Integral to every subject:** A wide range of general and subject-specific software is available, improving the integration of writing with core coursework.

**Supports the complete writing process:** Dana offers students an individualized setting in which they can outline, organize, create, edit, format, and publish their finished pieces.

**Portable:** Lightweight and with a long battery life, Dana can be used anywhere, inside or outside of the classroom, all day long.

**Rugged design:** Built to withstand the rigors of classroom use, Dana delivers years of service.

**Affordable:** Dana offers a total cost of ownership (TCO) up to 75% lower than laptop computers.



### Built for collaboration

*With Dana, students collaborate with each other, beaming their work to peers for feedback and discussion, or sending completed assignments to the teacher for evaluation and comment. Teachers can download reference materials and beam them to students. Dana's storage can be easily expanded, allowing it to become a virtual textbook or library. Dana is also available in a wireless configuration that is Internet-ready, opening an even wider world of collaboration opportunities.*

# Writing across the curriculum with Dana



## Language Arts

Students using Dana immerse themselves in the writing process, helping them to master essential writing skills. For example, for an essay assignment, students can use Dana to capture a free-form flow of ideas, which can then be organized into a structured outline. As students write their essays, they can use a built-in thesaurus to enhance word choices, and use Dana to experiment with sentence structure and to perfect their grammar. Exchanging essays by beaming with other students for peer review helps writers become cognizant of a reader's viewpoint and helps them learn to adapt their writing to a variety of audiences. Because students enjoy writing with Dana, they write more and find it easier to develop a personal writing voice. When it's time to present their work, Dana offers flexible options, from formatting and printing to creating PowerPoint or other format presentations.

## Reading Comprehension

Dana helps boost reading comprehension in any subject. Teachers can use Dana to design exercises to build knowledge of a subject in preparation for reading, make connections between prior knowledge and new information, build excitement about what students are going to read, and strengthen retention of information. For example, before reading a book about the Civil War, a teacher can create lists of guided questions and vocabulary words and beam them to students. To build context, students can use Dana to access other sources recommended by the teacher, such as online articles or eBooks related to the Civil War topic. As they read, students can take notes or annotate eBook text with questions or thoughts they may want to revisit later. Writing and beaming a summary of their reading to either their peers or teacher ensures understanding and increases long-term retention of the information. Dana can also be used for assessment: questions about the reading material can be beamed to students, who can beam their responses back for easier evaluation, eliminating the need to decipher handwriting.

## Social Studies

Dana brings social studies alive by allowing students to perform assignments end-to-end in a writing-focused environment. For example, if their assignment topic is local politics, students can choose candidates to study, design questionnaires, and then take their Danas out for person-on-the-street interviews. Students can rotate the display image 90 degrees in either direction, allowing Dana to be used like a clipboard, thus easing data collection. After the interviews are complete, students can then import their data into a spreadsheet for analysis and beam it to other students in their project group. Afterward, students can decide whom they'd vote for and why, writing about and sharing their thoughts with others to foster debate. The end project would be a newsletter that covers the debate from both sides—written, formatted, and published using Dana.



## Popular Products for Integrating Writing Using Dana

**Word Processing** *AlphaWord* by AlphaSmart – A full-function word processing application included with Dana. The built-in thesaurus facilitates word choice; formatting options take students from creation through publishing.

*QuickWord* by Mobility Electronics, Inc. or *Documents To Go* by DataViz, Inc. – Word processors optionally included with Dana.

**Outlining/Organizing** *OutWriter* by Hands High – Provides the ability to list ideas and organize them later, supporting the development of paragraph writing skills.

*Inspiration for Palm OS* by Inspiration Inc. – Students sketch symbols and arrange thoughts directly on screen, creating graphic representations of concepts.

**Presentation** *Quickpoint* by Mobility Electronics, Inc. – Showcases writing via PowerPoint presentations.

*PitchSolo* by iGo – Displays Dana screens or presentation slides on a VGA projector or monitor.

*Sketchy* by GoKnow, Inc. – An animated drawing/slide show program that allows students to share their learning as a mini-animated slide show.

**Document Reader** *Palm eBook Reader* by Palm Digital Media Inc. – Included with Dana for downloading and reading eBooks. Allows annotating text and note taking during reading.

**Communications** *DanaWeb* by AlphaSmart – Provides quick access to a wide range of Internet content on Dana's wide-screen display. Students can research answers to questions or learn more about the subject at hand. AlphaSmart's partnership with AOL@SCHOOL provides search results that are librarian-selected, and educationally-appropriate sites organized by suggested grade levels.

*Fling-It* by GoKnow, Inc. – Captures Web page content in a computer's browser and "flings" it to be installed on Dana. Students then have text information on their Danas that is needed for research or completing assignments, and can take it anywhere with them.

**Data Management** *HanDBase* by DDH Software or *FileMaker Mobile 7* by FileMaker Inc. – Database packages for creating and completing questionnaires.

**Assessment** *Classroom Wizard* by Scantron – Quickly quiz, grade, and report simultaneously right in the classroom.

AlphaSmart, Inc.  
973 University Ave  
Los Gatos, CA 95032

408-355-1000  
888-274-0680 (toll-free)

[www.alphasmart.com](http://www.alphasmart.com)