YAIS 2026 | UC BERKELEY

SOCIAL IMPACT

TalkNinja

An AI - powered speech coaching app for middle & high school students

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Download the app now!

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

OBJECTIVE

Can AI deliver real-time, personalized speaking feedback that improves student performance without a human coach?

BACKGROUND

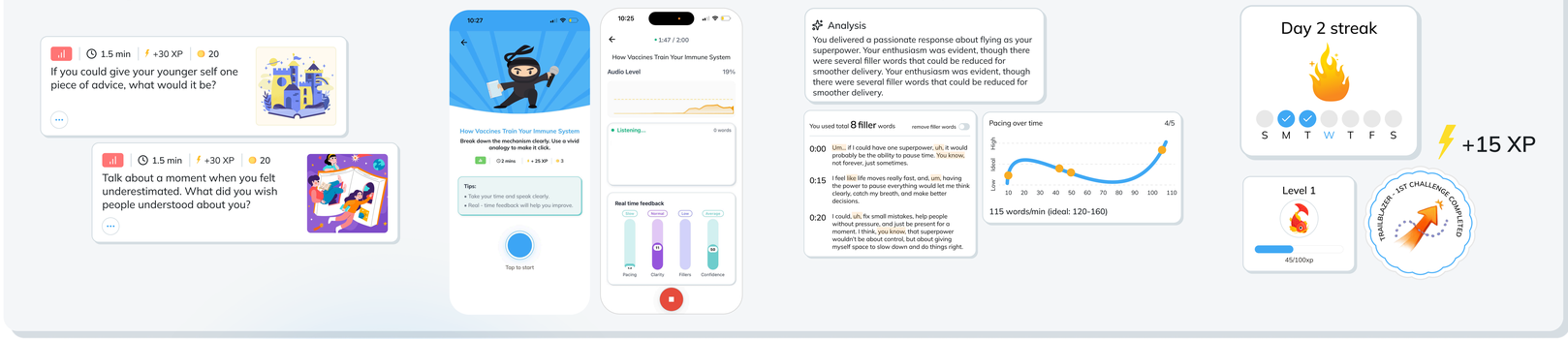
Communication skills are ranked the #1 factor in career success yet schools dedicate minimal time to teaching them.

75% of students fear public speaking[E]

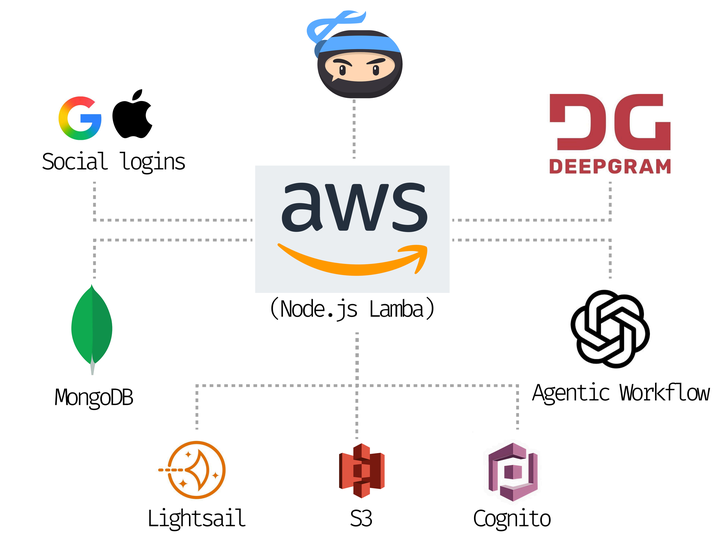
<3 structured speaking opportunities/year

Feedback is **vague** and **inconsistent**

METHODOLOGY

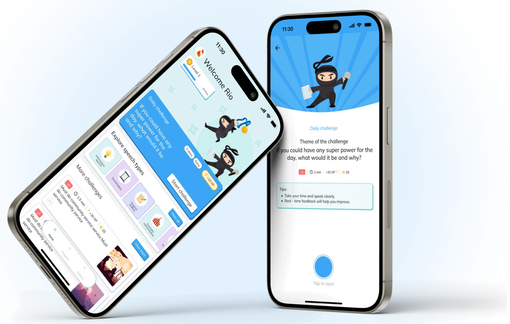


SYSTEM DESIGN



TOOLS USED:

Codex Figma Claude Github Firebase



Introducing TalkNinja : Secure COPPA Compliant app for kids

PROJECTED RESULTS

Pilot partnership in talks with an Indian NGO for 100+ underserved youth.

22%↓
Filler word reduction after 10+ AI practice sessions, AI coaching platform study, 2022 [A]

19%↑
Presentation confidence boost with real-time AI feedback
Univ. of Michigan Business School, 2023 [A]

14%↑
Day-14 user retention boost from streak-wager gamification Duolingo gamification study [B]

ANALYSIS & LIMITATIONS

1. Audio-only : eye contact, posture & gesture cannot be scored yet [C]
2. Accent gaps : Deepgram STT less accurate for non-native English speakers
3. No live data yet : benchmarks extrapolated from published research, not measured results [D]

FUTURE WORK

Video analysis, live AI debates, expansion for schools and debate clubs

citation :
[A] Scale.jobs (2025). Feedback Strategies for Continuous Speaking Improvement. Citing: AI coaching platform study (2022); Univ. of Michigan Business School (Sept. 2023). scale.jobs/blog
[B] StriveCloud (2026). Duolingo Gamification Explained — streak-wager study showing 14% day-14 retention boost. strivecloud.io/blog
[C] Routarinne et al. (2024). Taylor & Francis.
[D] Lampropoulos et al. (2024). Education Sciences
[E] https://www.researchgate.net publication/271993200_Is_Public_Speaking_Really_More_Feared_Than_Death

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