

## HOW TO WRITE AN *INSPIRED* ESSAY

“How can I know what I think until I see what I say” (E.M.Forster) implies that writing helps us clarify our ideas. Unfortunately, when we view our writing as a finished product—a one draft deal, we may think that organizing and writing will be quick and easy because the Internet will make research instantaneous. Or we may believe writing a research paper is an overwhelming, arduous task and put off the writing until the day before the assignment is due. Either way, we never know what we think because we spend little time seeing what we have to say.

INSPIRATION<sup>®</sup> software helps students create bubble diagrams and idea maps that visually demonstrate relationships between facts, concepts or ideas and guides students’ thinking processes. Students jot down information collected from an Internet site, the COD Library Database, or any source, including source origin, and develop any conclusions they might make from the research. Then, with the click of a button, INSPIRATION transforms the graphic maps into outlines that can be exported to Word or Power Point. The visual displays allow them to *see* the relationships between facts and concepts which help them to logically develop their own ideas.

### EXAMPLE OF AN *INSPIRED* RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

Bring your research or essay assignment into the Writing Center. We will show you how to

1. Open INSPIRATION<sup>®</sup>
  - a. click on All Templates, then click on Planning, and then on Research Strategies.
  - b. click on All Templates, then click on Thinking Skills, and then on Supporting Ideas.
2. Use INSPIRATION<sup>®</sup> to brainstorm the topic. Minimize it, and if appropriate search the library database or the Internet for additional ideas.
3. Create an outline from the brainstorming diagram, which can be used to start the essay.
4. Visit a writing tutor, before writing the essay to discuss organization and details collected.
5. Write a preliminary essay from the outline.
6. Visit a writing tutor for feedback on how well the essay communicates the idea (organization, development), Revise.
7. Visit a tutor for feedback on punctuation and grammar. Edit

Many other useful templates are available for Language Arts, Planning, Science, Logic. Below are just a few Inspired Assignment Templates for Topics. Check all the template areas—Language Arts, Science, History, Thinking and Planning--since many templates actually are interchangeable with other topics not necessarily in the field. The Text Chapter Outline template, for example, is located in Science, but can easily work for other subjects. The > means you should click on the link.

1. CULTURE: All Templates> Social Studies>Cultural Impact
2. DESCRIPTION: All Templates>Language Arts>Explore a Memory.
3. FILM REVIEW: All Templates>Language Arts>Movie Review
4. PHOTOSYNTHESIS: All Templates>Science>Photosynthesis
5. TEXT CHAPTER OUTLINE: All Templates>Science>Textbook Notetaking
6. HISTORY: All Templates>History>Social Studies>Issue Analysis
7. RESUME: All Templates>Thinking and Planning>Resume
8. POETRY: All Templates>Language Arts>Poetic Analysis

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