Teacher Perspective: Pairing Inspiration Maps with STOP

Inspiration Maps is an app that students can use to organize their thoughts from their iPads. They use the app for brainstorming, then often reorganize for better outlining to write their papers. Inspiration Maps allows them to easily manipulate their thoughts where they couldn’t do that on paper. Students can drag items to different spots in their map. The tool is valuable for student writers and pairs nicely with the STOP strategy.

STOP Strategy

- Suspend Judgment
- Take a Side
- Organize Ideas
- Plan More as You Write

Teachers model the steps of the strategy so students can see there are two sides to an argument. If students write down brainstorming ideas for both sides of an argument, it becomes easier to see which side they have the best ideas for and to begin writing.

Students comment that writing is difficult and sometimes they don’t know where to start. STOP gives them a structure to go off of to write a persuasive piece. Teachers feel like the strong writers are helped with the strategy, too, since it slows them down allowing for more organization and focus to their writing points.

STOP gives students a basis for their brainstorming; Inspiration gives them the tool to organize. The pairing can be used across multiple content classes.
**Strategies for Effective Writing: STOP + DARE**

**Persuasive Planning and Writing with STOP + DARE**

**STEP 1. STOP**

**Suspend judgment.** Consider both sides of an issue before taking a position.

**Take a side.** Write down ideas for both sides.

**Organize ideas.** Select ideas on the “for” or “against” side that best support your position.

**Plan more and say more as you write.** Continue planning while writing. Add more ideas.

**STEP 2. DARE**

**Develop your topic/thesis sentence.**

**Add supporting ideas.**

**Reject arguments for the other side.**

**End with a strong conclusion.**

The STOP + DARE Strategy provides a general framework for planning, reflecting, and writing a persuasive essay that addresses both sides of an issue.

**Strategy Summary**

**Step 1.** Introduce the mnemonic for the two-part STOP + DARE strategy.

- Model it using think aloud.
- Discuss the characteristics of a strong argument/persuasive essay.

**Step 2.** Provide a sample argument essay for students to read. Discuss.

- Look for evidence of the STOP + DARE strategy in the example.
- Discuss components of the essay.

**Step 3.** Provide an example of an argument prompt for students to practice using the STOP + DARE Strategy.

- Analyze and discuss student essays for the STOP + DARE Strategy.

**Step 4.** Students independently write an argument essay based on the given prompt utilizing STOP + DARE.
Suspend judgment, Brainstorm ideas for and against the topic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(For)</th>
<th>(Against)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>7.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Take a side. Place a “=” at the top of the box that shows the side you will take.

Organize ideas. Decide which ideas are strong and which ideas you can dispute.

Plan more as you write. Remember to use all four essay parts (DARE) and continue planning.

Now write your essay on another piece of paper.
Your name: ________________________________________________  
Article title: ______________________________________________

**Suspend judgment**, then brainstorm ideas for and against the topic. (Use **Inspiration Maps**.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRO (For)</th>
<th>CON (Against)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Take a side.** Place a “+” at the top of the box that shows the side you will take.  
**Organize ideas.** Decide which 3 ideas are strongest and which ideas you can dispute.  
**Plan more as you write.** Remember to use all four essay parts (DARE) and continue planning.  

**DARE**

**Develop your topic sentence**  
**Add supporting details**  
**Reject 1 argument – or nod to the opposition**  
**End with a concluding sentence**

Now, write your paragraph in the **CO:Writer Universal app.**