



Inspiration 12 and Inspiration RD Needs Recommendation Guide

What is Inspiration

Harnessing the power of visual thinking, Inspiration makes your ideas visible by turning abstract thoughts into structured visuals like concept maps, mind maps, and diagrams. Inspiration helps you externalize your thinking, bringing immediate clarity to ideas while generating a structured outline to kickstart writing—all within one platform.

Inspiration is designed specifically to support learners with:

- **Organizing Thinking & Study Workflows:** Structure projects and transform a "brain dump" of ideas into a logical, manageable study plan and writing outline.
- **Clarifying Complex Subjects:** Making sense of intricate data, theories, and academic concepts by visually mapping relationships to ground abstract thoughts.
- **Academic Writing & Note-taking:** Draft essays, take lecture notes, and prepare presentations within a single platform that flips instantly from a visual map to a structured outline.

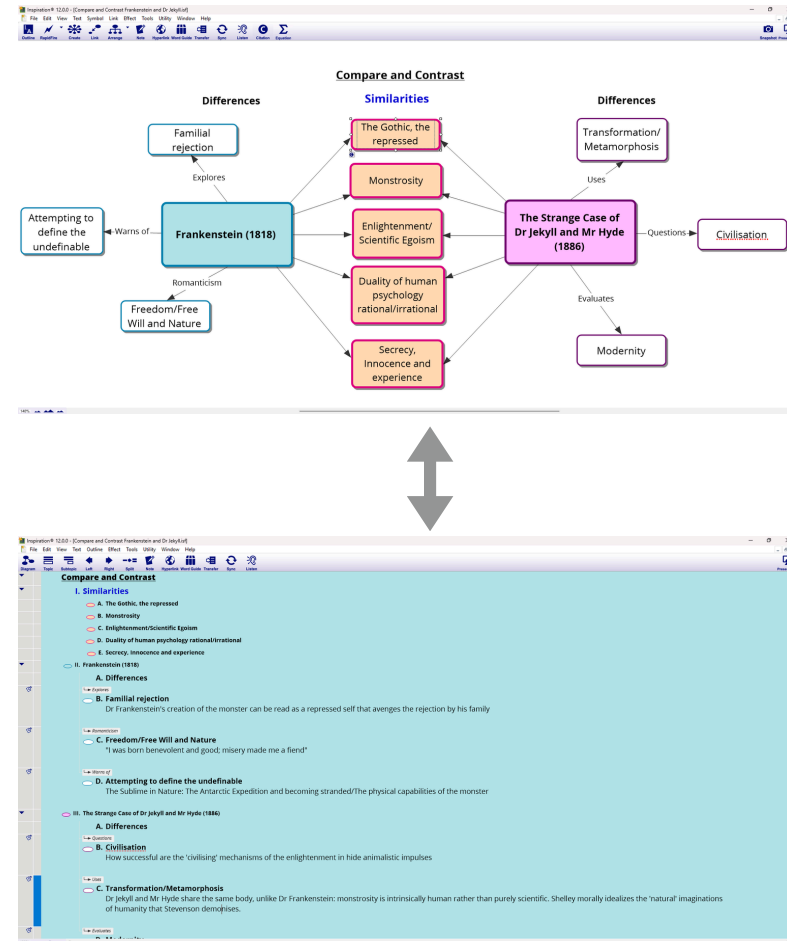


How does Inspiration help?

Inspiration's visual thinking approach leverages **Dual Coding Theory** by creating two distinct mental pathways- verbal and spatial - for the same piece of information. This dual-track processing reinforces memory and allows the brain to organize complex ideas more efficiently than text alone.

Creating diagrams allows for simultaneous processing, making it much easier to see how complex parts of a topic relate to one another at a glance. Inspiration's unique ability to flip between a diagram and an outline is a literal manifestation of dual coding; it allows you to transform a "non-verbal" map into a "verbal" structure for writing and fully word-process your ideas—all within a single platform.

You can move back and forth between both views, working at the big-picture level and in the details. Everything is in sync.



Why Needs Assessors Recommend Inspiration

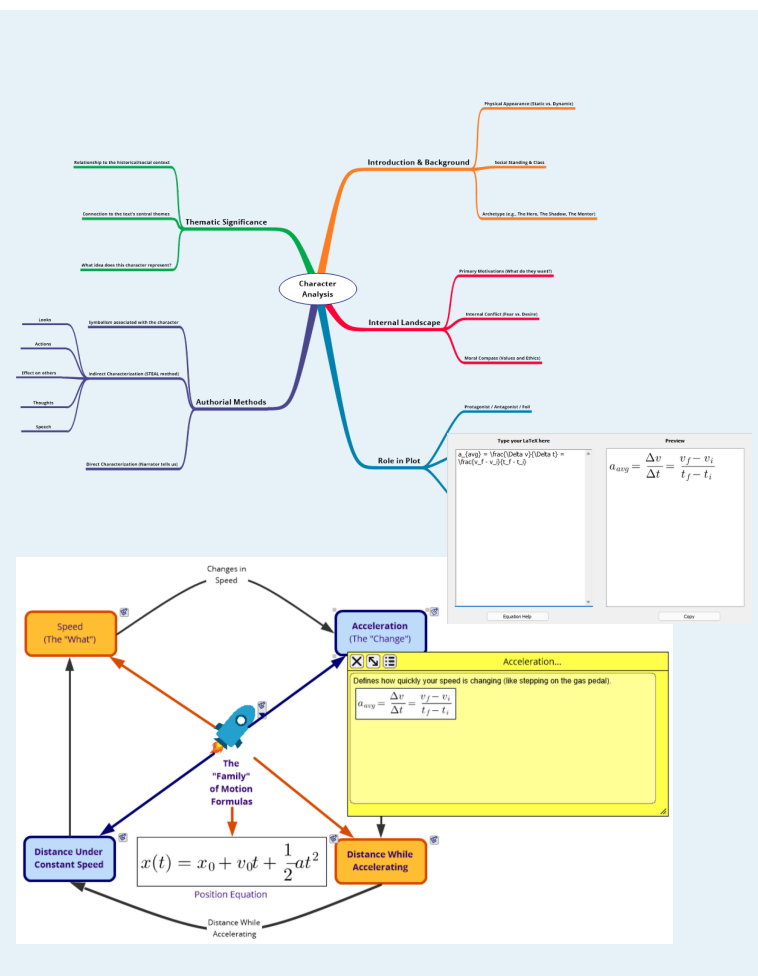
Writing and Organization: Assessors consistently agree that the software is a premier tool for helping students organize their ideas and structure written assignments.

Memory and Processing: It is a primary choice for students with processing speed or short-term memory challenges, using the Rapid Fire tool to capture thoughts before they are forgotten.

Cognitive Clarity: The visual approach helps students clarify their thinking and move from abstract concepts to completed tasks more effectively than using text alone.

Creative and User-Friendly Tool: Assessors view Inspiration as a more "creative" tool compared to other solutions, noting that its visual interface is often more engaging and user-friendly for students with no prior experience or like to use colour and images.

Specialist Features: Key justifications for its use include audio notes for memory recall and the Equation Editor for STEM subjects.



Addressing student learning challenges

This guide demonstrates how Inspiration mitigates the cognitive barriers associated with ADHD, Dyslexia, Autism, and Executive Function challenges by focusing on three pillars: Organizing Ideas, Clarifying Thinking, and Academic Writing.

Difficulty	How Inspiration Helps
Organizing Ideas: From Chaos to Structure	<p>Students with ADHD and Executive Function challenges often struggle with "starting friction" and the inability to categorize a "brain dump" of information.</p> <p>The Rapid Fire Tool: Allows students to capture "exploding ideas" as fast as they think them, bypassing the need for linear organization.</p> <p>Dynamic Organization: Students can move ideas, notes, and images anywhere on a free-form page to understand how concepts relate.</p> <p>One-Click "Arrange": Instantly creates order from a messy map, helping students who feel overwhelmed by the visual noise of unstructured data.</p>
Clarifying Thinking: The Bridge of Dual Coding	<p>For Dyslexic and Autistic learners, clarifying abstract concepts requires more than just text. Inspiration uses visual-spatial relationships to ground abstract thoughts.</p> <p>Visual Prompts: A library of over 1,000 symbols provides visual anchors to reinforce verbal cues, promoting better memory retention and clarity.</p> <p>Logical Linkages: The "Phrase Bank" allows students to explicitly label the relationship between ideas (e.g., "results in" or "is a part of"), providing the concrete logical structure that Autistic learners often require.</p> <p>Focus Mode: Students can "contract" diagrams to hide irrelevant information, allowing them to clarify one specific sub-topic without the distraction of the "big picture".</p>

Addressing student learning challenges

Difficulty	How Inspiration Helps
Academic Writing: A Full Word-Processing Environment	<p>Unlike other solutions, which often function primarily as planning tools, Inspiration is a complete writing platform.</p> <p>Synchronous Dual Views: The Diagram and Outline Views are perfectly in sync. Students can work at the "big picture" level in the diagram or dive into the details in the outline; changes in one are instantly reflected in the other.</p> <p>Full Word-Processing: You can fully word-process within Inspiration's Outline View. Students can write full paragraphs, add citations, and generate bibliographies directly within the software.</p> <p>Beating the "Blank Page": By starting with a map and flipping to a structured outline, students move from planning to writing with a pre-built framework, eliminating the anxiety of starting a draft from scratch.</p>
Specialist Features for Neurodivergent Learners	<p>Audio Note Reminders: Essential for memory support; students can record verbal explanations and play them back later to aid retention.</p> <p>Built-in "Listen" Tool: A dedicated text-to-speech engine allows students to hear their map or outline read back to them for proofreading and comprehension.</p> <p>Smart Checklist: Breaks overwhelming assignments into visual, manageable tasks using checklists, to keep students motivated and on track.</p>

Accessibility Features

Inspiration is built from the ground up for accessibility (conformance to Section 508). This includes:

- Highly customized interface to meet user needs and preferences.
- Built-in text-to-speech.
- Talking interface for low vision users.
- Tested with ZoomText, JAWS and NVDA for low vision users.
- Optimized for keyboard control.
- Speech-to-text:
 - Use with **Dragon Professional**: optional Dragon Command Pack with 200+ custom commands to dictate and control Inspiration.
 - Recommend Inspiration Dragon Edition for new users.
 - Use with Windows Voice Access (dictation and control) & Talk Type (dictation).



ZoomText

MAGNIFIER WITH SPEECH




JAWS

SCREEN READER



Our Products to Recommend

Choose which product to recommend based on the OS platform.

OS Platform	Product Option	Licensing
 Windows	<p>Inspiration 12: Installed app, works completely offline.</p> <p>or</p> <p>Inspiration Dragon Edition: Inspiration 12 license with the Dragon Command Pack add-on included. Requires a license of Dragon Professional 15 or 16. Works completely offline.</p>	<p>Inspiration 12 - Perpetual License (one-off-cost)*</p> <p>Inspiration Dragon Edition - Perpetual License (one-off-cost)*</p> <p>*This license does not expire and will support the student in their transition to work/ their next phase in life.</p>
 Apple Mac  Chromebook	<p>Inspiration RD: online app requiring internet access.</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspiration 12 • Online file storage • Access to Microsoft Word and PowerPoint 	<p>Subscription License:</p> <p>1 and 4 year student plans available.</p>

Recommending Inspiration over free tools

We recognize there are free alternative tools you may be asked to justify Inspiration against. However, while free mind-mapping tools are often designed for casual brainstorming, Inspiration is a specialized cognitive workspace engineered specifically for high-stakes academic writing and long-term learning retention. Here is why Inspiration remains the premier choice for student success:

Integrated Writing Environment: Unlike "freemium" tools that merely export a static list, Inspiration allows you to fully word-process within the software. You can develop complete paragraphs, add citations, and generate bibliographies in the Outline View, ensuring your transition from a map to a finished essay is seamless and contained within one platform.

Synchronous Dual-Track Processing: Inspiration provides a bi-directional sync between visual and outline views. Working at the "big picture" level in a diagram while simultaneously refining details in an outline reinforces memory and ensures your structured plan never loses its creative spark.

Rapid Idea Capture: Free tools often create "cognitive bottlenecks" by requiring manual node creation. Inspiration's Rapid Fire tool allows students with processing speed or short-term memory challenges to capture thoughts instantly as they occur, preventing ideas from being lost to frustration.

Advanced Memory Supports: While free versions often paywall multimedia features, Inspiration natively includes Audio Note reminders. This allows students to record verbal nuances that text alone cannot capture, which can be played back during the writing stage to aid recall.

Specialist Academic Tools: Inspiration offers over 1,000 symbols for academic subjects and a built-in Equation Editor for STEM students—features almost never found in general-purpose free software.

Distraction-Free Reliability: Unlike web-based free tools that rely on browsers and are often ad-supported, Inspiration 12 is a stable desktop application. It provides a private, offline-capable environment that eliminates "tab-switching" fatigue and supports hyper-focus for neurodivergent learners.

