The STOP Strategy Paired with Inspiration Maps

How to Use the STOP Writing Strategy with Inspiration

Inspiration Maps, an interactive graphic organizer, pairs well with the STOP strategy. STOP is part of the Self Regulated Strategy Development model for teaching writing and supports persuasive writing. It includes four elements.

S = Suspend Judgment; students list the points for both sides of an argument and consider both possible sides.

T= Take a Side; students read the points for both sides and decide which side they feel is more persuasive.

O = Organize Ideas; students review their ideas and select the strongest, often numbering them in order of importance.

P = Plan More as You Write; students continually plan as they write and potentially use other strategies to support the drafting, editing, and revising process.

Below are the steps for using Inspiration with STOP.

STEP 1: Find a persuasive template in Inspiration Maps. Teachers and students can tweak templates to suite their writing needs, i.e., teachers may modify the template to make vocabulary align with common core language, such as "claim" and "evidence".

STEP 2: S = Suspend judgment by double tapping inside a shape to get the cursor to add text or make edits. Students may use an article to list evidence for and evidence against, such as the example topic "owning exotic animals" from a National Geographic article.

STEP 3: T = Take a Side. Make a claim after choosing a column of evidence that is strongest. Create a shape and type the claim close to the chosen column.

STEP 4: O = Organize ideas for those points that are most important. Tap and drag on a shape to move it. Then you can number them. The numbers will help when you move to the outline format offered in the Inspiration app. Numbering also helps if you want to put notes into CO:Writer, another app for the writing process.
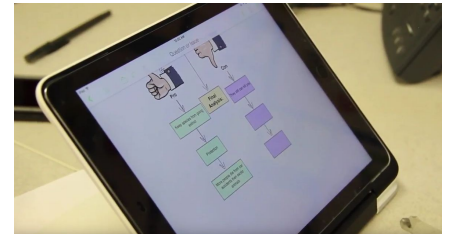
STEP 5: P = continue to Plan. Tap on a box shape to write more. This creates a separate shape for a note. The notes support individual points of evidence. DARE is another strategy to help fluently write an essay. (See DARE demonstration video.)

USING CONCEPT MAPPING WITH STOP STRATEGY

Teacher Perspective: Pairing a Concept Map with STOP

Using a concept mapping app such as Inspiration Maps allows students 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.

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.

Argument Planning and Writing Strategy
STOP and DARE

STEP 1. **S**uspend judgment.
Consider both sides of an issue before taking a position.

STEP 2. **T**ake a side.
Write down ideas for both sides.

STEP 3. **O**rganize ideas.
Select ideas on the "for" or "against" side that best support your position.

STEP 4. **P**lan more and say more as you write.
Continue planning while writing. Add more ideas.

Develop your topic/thesis sentence.

Add supporting ideas.

Reject arguments for the other side.

End with a strong conclusion.

STOP + D.A.R.E. The STOP & DARE Strategy provides a general framework for planning, reflecting, and writing an argument essay that addresses both sides of an issue.

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

- **Model it using think aloud.**
- **Discuss the characteristics of a strong argument 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.**

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