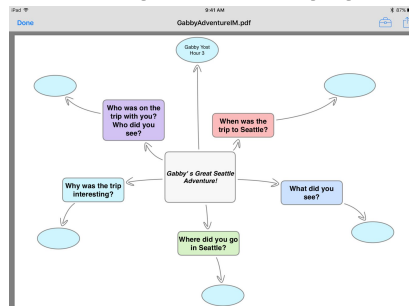# POW Writing Strategy with Concept Mapping

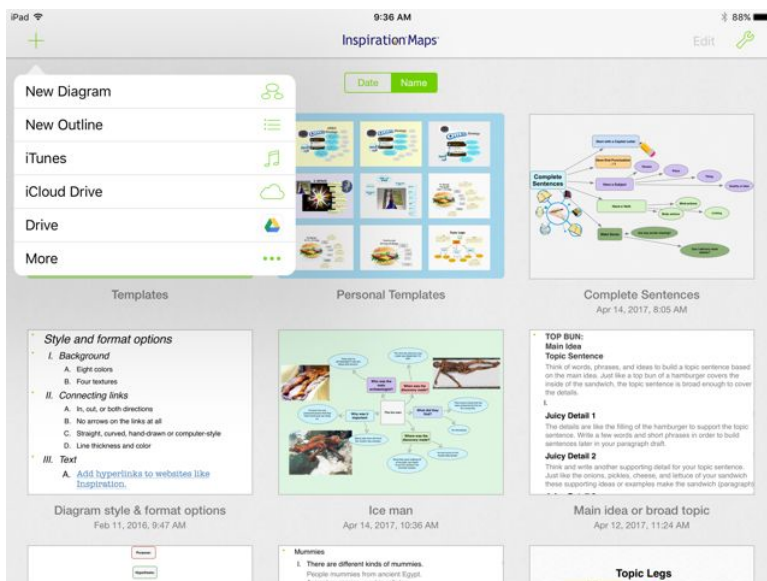# How to Use the POW Writing Strategy with Inspiration Maps

Students can use the POW writing strategy within concept mapping such as Inspiration Maps on their iPads. POW is an SRSD writing strategy that can be paired with any concept-mapping tool. When students memorize the strategy parts, they can self regulate and use it across content areas and genres for various writing tasks. POW is an acronym and can be used as a starter strategy complementing TREE, WWW and C-SPACE.

Pick my idea
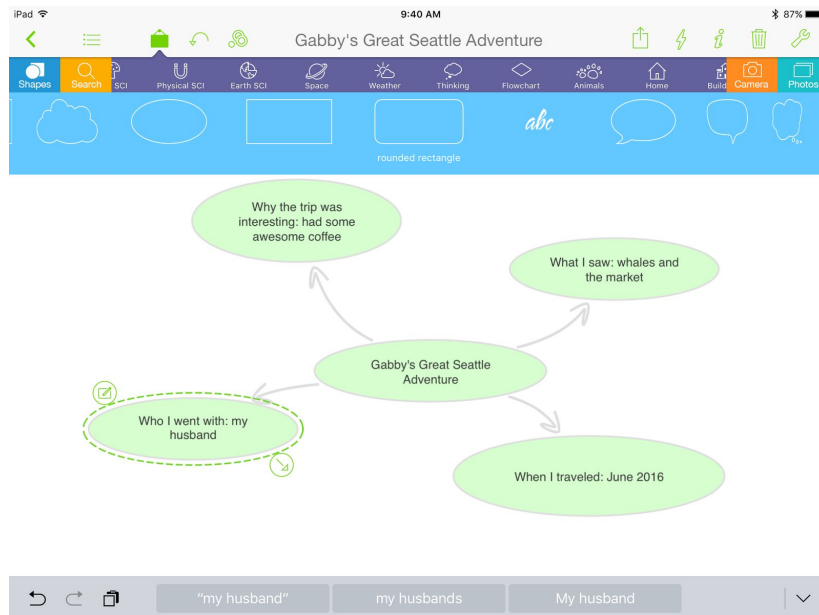**Organize my notes**
Write and say more

Inspiration Maps or other similar concept mapping tools allow students to create their own visual representation of ideas. Inspiration Maps is handy because it has built-in templates that students can choose from and customize for themselves. The O in POW stands for Organize my notes. Inspiration Maps gives students a fun way to manipulate ideas and plan for drafting. Here are example steps of using POW paired with Inspiration Maps to better plan for the drafting process.

Step 1. Students start out in the Inspiration Maps app for **Pick my idea** and **Organize my notes**. Many templates are offered. Teachers may choose the template and airdrop to students. To create a new one, students tap the + sign, then New Diagram in the dropdown menu.
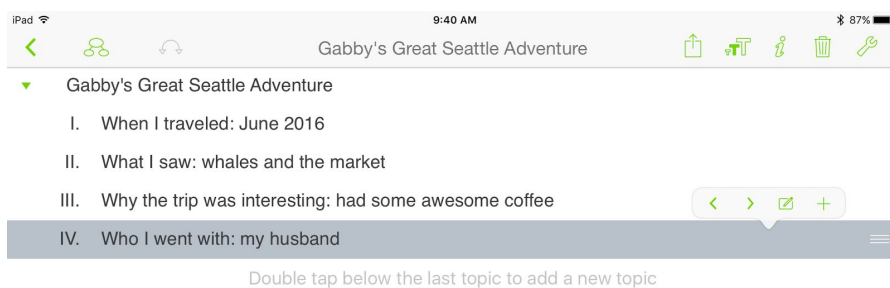
Step 2. To creatively write with a teacher provided topic such as, "My Perfect Trip" start by double tapping in the oval shape. Type your title related to the topic. The P in POW is done.

Step 3. The O in POW allows for Inspiration Maps to shine. The concept map allows students to organize and plan their writing. From the main idea bubble, hold and drag the arrow icon to stretch the line and add a new idea. Continue to drag and drop shapes to organize ideas. Inspiration Maps allows you to change background colors, links styles, add graphics and even notes.

Step 4. You can go to the top left-hand corner to find three stacked lines. Taping the lines allows you to flip from the concept map form to outline form. You can copy and paste this into another application such as CO:Writer Universal or Google Docs to write the essay.

Strategies for Effective Writing: POW Strategy

Planning for Writing with the POW Strategy

STEP 1. **PICK IDEAS:** Brainstorm and plan what to write about.

STEP 2. **ORGANIZE:** Organize your notes by story part. Choose several possible ideas for each part.

STEP 3. **WRITE:** Write and say more about the topic.

The POW Planning Strategy

This general strategy is a good place to start because it is applicable to different genres and can be utilized in conjunction with other strategies as well (i.e., POW + TREE).

Step 1. Activate background knowledge by discussing components of a good story. Share examples of good stories and discuss.

Step 2. Introduce the mnemonic for POW and model the strategy. Use a "think aloud" to explain how POW can be used. Provide opportunities for students to discuss the strategy.

Step 3. Select a topic. Practice POW. Share a few examples of student writing then review the strategy. Students independently write from a prompt using POW.

Strategies for Effective Writing: POW + TREE

Persuasive Writing with the POW + TREE Strategy

STEP 1. POW

Pick my idea. Decide what to write about.

Organize my notes. Brainstorm possible ideas.

Write and say more

+

STEP 2. TREE

Topic sentence. Tell what you believe.

Reasons why you believe this. State three or more reasons.

Explain reasons. Say more about each reason.

Ending. Wrap it up. Examine the paper to see if all parts are included.

The POW + TREE Strategy uses the POW and TREE mnemonics to plan and organize persuasive writing.

Step 1. Discuss argument writing and the components of strong persuasive essays.

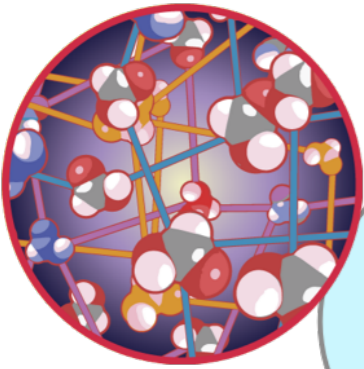Step 2. Review the POW Strategy. Review the TREE Strategy.

Step 3. Provide a sample persuasive essay. Refer to the last E in TREE = **Ending**, examine the paper to see if all parts are included. Together, examine the essay to determine if all the required parts of the essay are present. Discuss.

Step 4. Provide a sample prompt.

- Refer to the P in POW = **P**ick my idea. Students will brainstorm ideas.
- Refer to the O in POW = **O**rganize notes.
- Refer to the TREE Strategy.
- Refer to the W in POW = **W**rite and say more.
- Students will practice writing a persuasive essay using POW + **TREE**. **Discuss.**

Step 5. Students independently write a persuasive essay from a given prompt using POW + TREE.

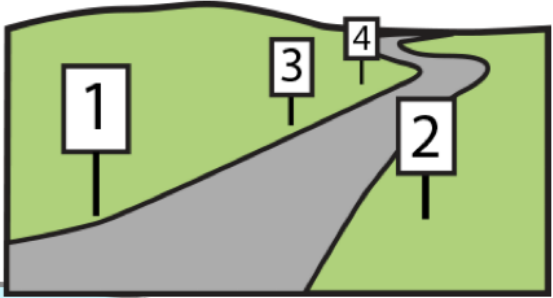# POW

Pick My Idea

Pick My Idea

Your teacher may give you some choices for your writing idea. Let your mind be open and free to ideas to note once you decide your topic.

Organize My Notes

Organize My Notes

Now I can write down essay or story part ideas in this organizer as I think of them. I can move my ideas around. Consider who, what, and where. Consider pros and cons. Talk aloud and fill in notes. Can I add more? Can I add million-dollar words. I don't have to worry about full sentences right now. Brain dump time!

Write and Say More

Write and Say More

I can add more here. I can write full sentences in CO:Writer but come back to my map and add missing parts as I revise. Ask yourself, "Does my writing make sense?" "Do all ideas relate to the topic?" "Do ideas need more explanation , examples, or details?"