



Students Will Comprehend, Create, Communicate and Achieve With Inspiration 9

Newest Version of Leader in Visual Thinking and Learning's Flagship Software Designed to Build 21st Century Communication and Thinking Skills

Inspiration® Software, Inc., the leader in visual thinking and learning, today unveiled Inspiration® 9, the ultimate thinking and learning tool to comprehend, create, communicate and achieve more. With the ninth generation of its flagship software, the company is taking the proven ways that visual learning builds critical-thinking skills and improves student achievement in new directions, making the world's bestselling visual learning tool even more powerful. New capabilities in Inspiration 9, such as support for creating presentations and additional visual learning methodologies, provide an essential framework for thinking and help students develop 21st century skills.

Since its debut more than two decades ago, Inspiration has garnered numerous awards from the education, technology and parenting communities. Now used by millions of students and teachers around the world, the software is considered the gold standard of visual learning tools.

"To be successful in the 21st century, it isn't just enough to learn facts and figures. It is essential that today's students develop strong critical-thinking, writing and organisational skills as well as good communication skills to effectively share their knowledge and understanding," said Mona Westhaver, president and co-founder, Inspiration Software. "Inspiration 9 encourages creativity, comprehension and retention, helping students build the critical-thinking and communication skills necessary for success in school, higher education and life."

New in Inspiration is the Presentation Manager, which students use to create organised and compelling presentations to present and communicate their knowledge and work. The Presentation Manager automatically creates bulleted slides and graphics from a student's diagram, mind map or outline. Students use this as the starting point to build their oral presentation and handouts and then add slides, speaker notes, talking points, graphics, video and sound to emphasise their points. Inspiration 9 ships with numerous ready-made professional quality themes to quickly develop a visually appealing presentation, or students can create their own themes to personalise their presentations. Once their presentation is complete, they can play it directly from Inspiration or from any Macintosh® or Windows® computer using the free Inspiration Presenter available on the installation CD and at <http://www.inspiration.com/global>.

Inspiration 9 also provides:

- *More visual learning support to strengthen understanding, retention and communication:*

- New symbol libraries designed to support curriculum.
- A convenient way to label concept map links using common Linking Phrases to explain relationships easily.
- The ability to create a new diagram from the content of a mind map and create a new mind map from the content of a diagram.
- The ability to lock items so teachers can keep content in templates in place and be sure they aren't moved or deleted by students.
- ***More capabilities for organising, outlining and writing in Outline View:***
 - Students can now see symbols and link text in their outlines to make visual/written connections and to see additional relationships and connections between topics.
 - Multiple outline topics can be instantly combined into one topic using Combine Topics.
 - Long topics that contain multiple ideas can be quickly broken apart into separate topics using the Break Apart command.
 - Word and page requirements can be met with the new Word Count tool.

Tricia Lockhart, a freelance education adviser, has extensive experience using Inspiration Software; having tested the latest version, Tricia was extremely impressed, commenting, "Inspiration 9 has delivered what I have come to expect. The robustness and intuitive interface remain; the multimedia tools so useful to many are intact; the new tools such as the Presentation Manager form extra features that are really valuable and totally integrate into my favourite and most used piece of software. The uncanny knack to come up with neat twists simply applied and to wrinkle out features of real benefit to users makes me feel they must have been in my classroom watching my students!"

About Inspiration Software, Inc.

Recognised as the leader in visual thinking and learning, Inspiration Software, Inc.'s award-winning software tools, Inspiration, Kidspiration® and InspireData®, are based on proven visual learning methodologies that help students think, learn and achieve. With the powerful combination of visual learning and technology, students learn to clarify thoughts, organise and analyse information, integrate new knowledge and think critically. Founded more than 25 years ago by Donald Helfgott and Mona Westhaver, the company's visual learning software tools are used today by more than 25 million students and teachers worldwide.