



4.14: Mindmapping with Kidspiration

Prerequisite Skills and Knowledge

- ∞ Students should have a clear understanding of the writing process and basic skills with the software, “Kidspiration”

Time Required

- ∞ Although this lesson can carry over into consecutive class sessions, the initial mini lesson and guided practice can be 20 minutes in length

Materials

- ∞ Computer Lab, Printer, Copy Paper, Kidspiration software, LCD projector

Intended Learning

- ∞ Students will write about a “memory” from their family life and use the software Kidspiration to create a planning sheet, outline, and then finally a finished piece of writing in paragraph form that is focused and well-constructed with a beginning, middle, end, and supporting details.

District Technology Standards Produces Quality Work

- ∞ Edits, Revises, and Publishes

Big Ideas from Literacy Guide - Unit 1, Writing

- ∞ Take an idea through writing process to a published piece of writing
- ∞ Tell and write a piece that is focused
- ∞ Use classroom rituals and routines to work independently and with others

Mini-Lesson

Connection - preparing students’ thinking

We can use computer software to help with the writing process in a variety of ways. Can you think of a software program that allows us to organize our thoughts for writing?

Teaching - Mini Lesson

Students will be seated at computers, and you will open Kidspiration on the LCD projector to the first page, with the Main Idea circle in the middle.

Tell students they will be writing today about a “memory” or experience in their life. Model how to

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click on the Main Idea and insert text for their assignment. (Some of this may be review, for those familiar with Kidspiration)

Show students how to link ideas, and convert icons into graphics using the graphics catalog.

When several ideas have been linked, choose “Outline” in the toolbar, and show students how their ideas are put into an outline format so they can add sentences under each idea to create a paragraph.

Tell students they will print out both the diagram page, and the outline to use for their published document. You can print both example pages to use as models.

Next, open Microsoft Word, new blank document, and show students how to use their Kidspiration pages to begin writing their “sloppy copy.” Using indenting and paragraph format begin writing a short paragraph from the first idea on your outline. They will create at least 5 ideas to develop in their writing piece. Students will print out this copy for editing either by a peer or by the teacher.

They should save their work then revise, after it has been edited. They will print out their final draft.

Active Engagement - Guided Practice

Students will open Kidspiration, and create a diagram and outline of a “memory” they have for a finished writing document. Both the diagram and outline will be printed to be used in a Microsoft Word document.

Link

Students will begin in Kidspiration software, then use Microsoft Word to create their “sloppy copy.” They should focus on a beginning, middle, and end to their writing, as well as adding supporting details, and visual language.

Independent Practice

Teacher

- ∞ Walk around and monitor student progress, helping individuals as necessary.

- ∞ Use a class list or spreadsheet to progress monitor for future progress reports and intervention needs.

Students

- ∞ Work independently, print their “sloppy copies” for editing by a peer or by the teacher, then revise, and print out final draft.

Sharing/Closure

- ∞ Students can share their “memory” stories either individually as class presentations or by putting together a class book with all the stories together, for sharing as a whole group.
- ∞ Ask students to share difficulties they had in completing this lesson. Share any tips they had to make the lesson easier.

Assessment

- ∞ Progress monitor each student on your class list or spreadsheet with a check for daily participation, or monitor their progress on completing the assignment. When students have completed their final draft, they should hand in all three pieces of writing.
- ∞ Using a rubric from 1-4 you can evaluate their finished work. A grade of “4” would be given for turning in all assignments, writing a strong beginning, middle, end and including details.