**Name:**  Nancy Murolo

**District:**  Three Village Central School District

**Grade:**  Grades 6-8 (Focus on Students with Learning Disabilities)

**Subject:**  Writing

**CCLS Standard Addressed:**

**W.6-8.6** Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas clearly and efficiently.

**Location of App:**

iTunes Store – Inspiration for iPad - $9.99

**Description of Application:**

Inspiration is a mobile graphic organizer that allows students and teachers to create diagrams, maps, and organizers to help with brainstorming, planning, organizing and building thinking skills. These creations can be transformed into outlines for writing. There are many different templates included, grouped according to subject and task, with the option of tailoring these or creating from scratch. The application opens with the option to choose from templates or create a new diagram. Each topic allows the user to add notes or subtopics connected with lines.

Inspiration’s outline view is presented as a hierarchical view of the map on looseleaf paper background. The user may indent or outdent topic levels and quickly add new topics, including hypertext links. Inspiration Maps gives a number of options for sharing maps, including e-mail, saved photo images, Dropbox, iTunes, and Pages.

**Incorporation Explanation:**

In my opinion, in addition to being a phenomenal aid for writing assignments, one of the best uses for Inspiration is as a study tool for content area material. Study skills are so important, yet in my opinion, the most neglected in the curriculum. The templates provided are wonderful and can easily be modified. The hands-on act of creating the graphic organizer engages the student in visual thinking as an active study technique. Visualization (picturing in your mind any chart, diagram, word, or map that you are trying to remember) is highly recommended as an active study technique and this app provides a 21st century model for that. The decision-making process of what to include and how to present it is a very effective strategy to help with recall during tests. Additionally, the ability to share with others is an incentive to create study groups, another effective way to increase retention of material.