

New teaching aid turns ideas into images

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A NorQuest College instructor has developed a program to make scattered ideas coherent by transforming them into word balloons on a computer screen.

“Most of us think in random thoughts,” said Roger Moore, the technology co-ordinator at NorQuest. “Sometimes we call it ‘brainstorming.’ What this does is help us visualize our thoughts and manipulate them into a linear pattern of thinking.”

He uses computer software from Inspiration Software Inc., an American company that recently awarded him \$750 so he can share his new visual teaching aid with others.

Moore is one of only two Canadian teachers to win the award. The other 28 recipients are from the U.S.

He said the visual instruction method is particularly helpful in teaching students with learning disabilities. Students also use it to organize essays, book reports, term papers and resumes.

“A lot of people have trouble organizing their thoughts,” he said.

“What this does is help them see the big picture and the relationship between different ideas and how they are linked to each other.”

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