Concept Maps & Technology

There are many, many software programs that exist for the purposes of concept mapping. Here are a few that are **FREE** and downloadable from the internet

- o Cmap (http://cmap.ihmc.us)
    - ▪ Free, very easy to use and share, very customizable
- o Inspiration (www.inspiration.com)
    - ▪ Very easy to use, K-12 focus, only free in certain campus labs

Helpful Cmap Features

- Attachments
    - o You can drag files (documents, pictures, etc.) from your computer and drop them on a concept to link these two objects (this is similar to attaching a document to an email). (This can also be done by right clicking on a concept, choosing *Add and Edit Links to Resources* and browsing for the file.)
    - o You can also "attach" web addresses to concepts: click on the concept you want to attach to then go to *Edit → Add Web Address...* to enter the web address to be attached. (This can also be done by right clicking on the concept.)
- Sharing maps
    - o Maps can easily be shared by exporting them to another format (.pdf, .jpg, .html, etc.) and then emailed
    - o Maps can also be shared online in folders that can be password protected (or you can allow certain users access)
- Cmap "soups"
    - o These knowledge soups act as a form of concept mapping wiki
    - o Different users can add claims and propositions to preexisting maps
    - o Discussion threads can be attached to claims
- Convert to and from map format and outline format
    - o In "Cmap list view" your preexisting maps can be converted into an outline and exported as text. Maps can be edited from the list view by adding concepts, linking phrases, or whole propositions
    - o Maps can even be created by adding concepts, linking phrases or propositions in the list view—then Cmap will create your information in map form
- Cmap has a built-in "presentation builder" similar to PowerPoint

Getting Started with Cmap

- Creating concepts
  - Double click a blank space to create a new concept
- Creating links
  - A single click on a concept shows the concept's arrow icon
  - Drag from the arrow on top of a concept to a blank space to link to a new concept
  - Drag from the arrow on top of a concept to another concept to link existing concepts
    - Holding shift down while dragging eliminates the need for a linking word
- Customizing
  - *Format → Styles…* brings up a style box. Note the tabs for *Font*, *Object*, *Line*, *Cmap*
- To start a new map
  - *File → New Cmap*

Sharing Your Map in This Workshop

- Save your map to your laptop with a distinct name (like your hawkid)
  - *File → Save Cmap*
    - Enter your hawkid as the Name
    - Click *Save*
- Next save your map to the shared folder
  - *File → Save Cmap As...*
    - At the top, on the very far right click the world button (the *Places* button)
    - Double click on "IHMC Public Cmaps"
    - Scroll all the way down to the folder "UI Concept Mapping Workshop"
      - Note that folders are in alphabetical order
    - Double click the folder "UI Concept Mapping Workshop"
    - Click *Save*
- View other shared maps
  - Click on the world button (*Shared Cmaps in Places*) in your main menu "Views—Cmap Tools"
  - Double click on "IHMC Public Maps"
  - In the new menu, scroll down and double click on the folder "UI Concept Mapping Workshop"
  - *Edit → Refresh* periodically to see maps as they are added
  - Double clicking a map will open it for viewing