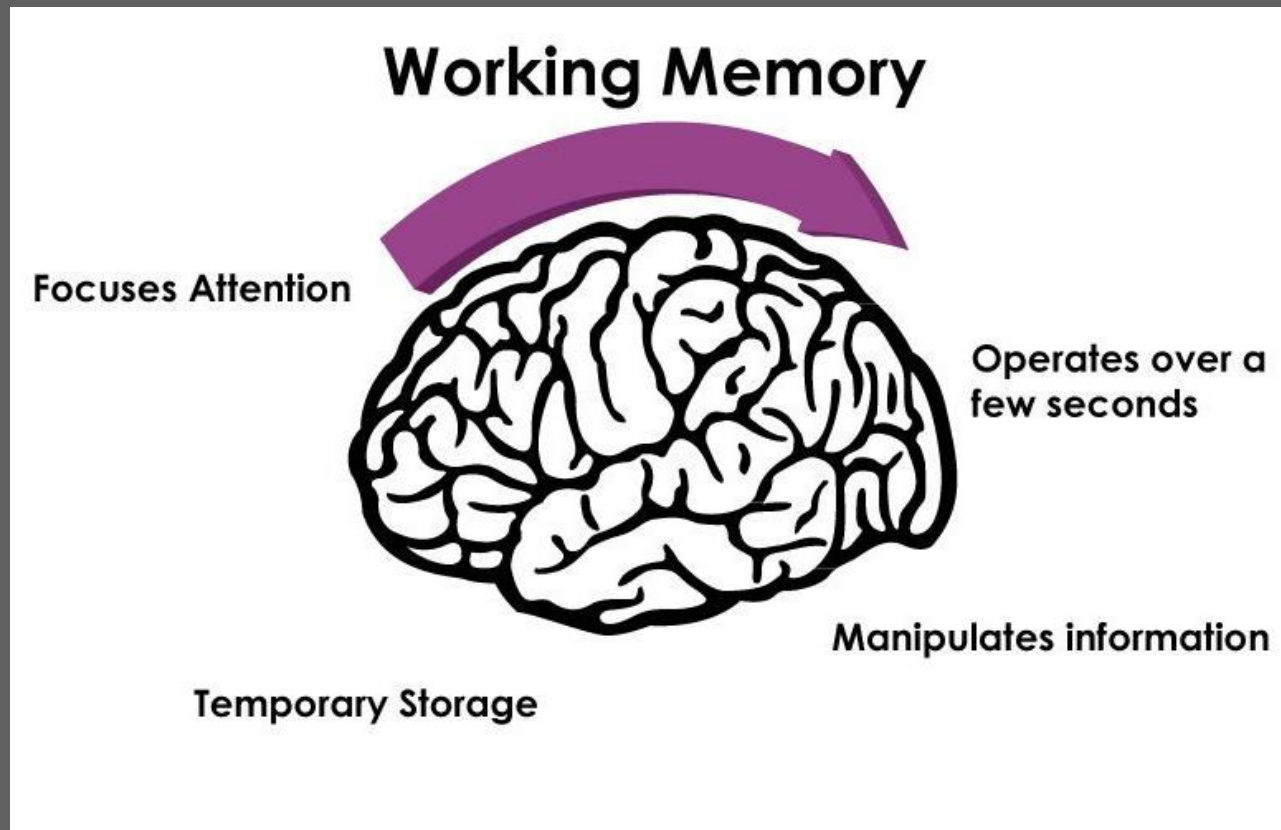# Supporting your young person with Specific Learning Difficulties

writing skills

Working memory

Working memory

Working memory:

| Holds and pays attention to information that is sensed, or that is triggered from old memories. | Holds and switches between bits of information when they are needed. Ignores information that isn't. | Holds options in mind while working out what needs to be done. Then holds details to plan then start activity. | Holds goals in mind to check if the plan is working. |

Processing speed

If a person has a below average working memory, they will struggle to keep enough items in their bucket

- Some items will fall out of their memory entirely

- Some items will be half, or wrongly, remembered

So, we need to support working memory at the planning stage…

PEEL paragraphs

State your **POINT** → First of all, removing wild animals from their natural habitats is incredibly cruel. When kept captive, these beautiful creatures become bored and lonely, often

Support with **EVIDENCE** → leading to a condition called 'zoochosis'. Animals suffering from zoochosis begin performing anxious, repetitive acts such as rocking back and forth, swaying, grooming themselves excessively and vomiting. Conditions such as
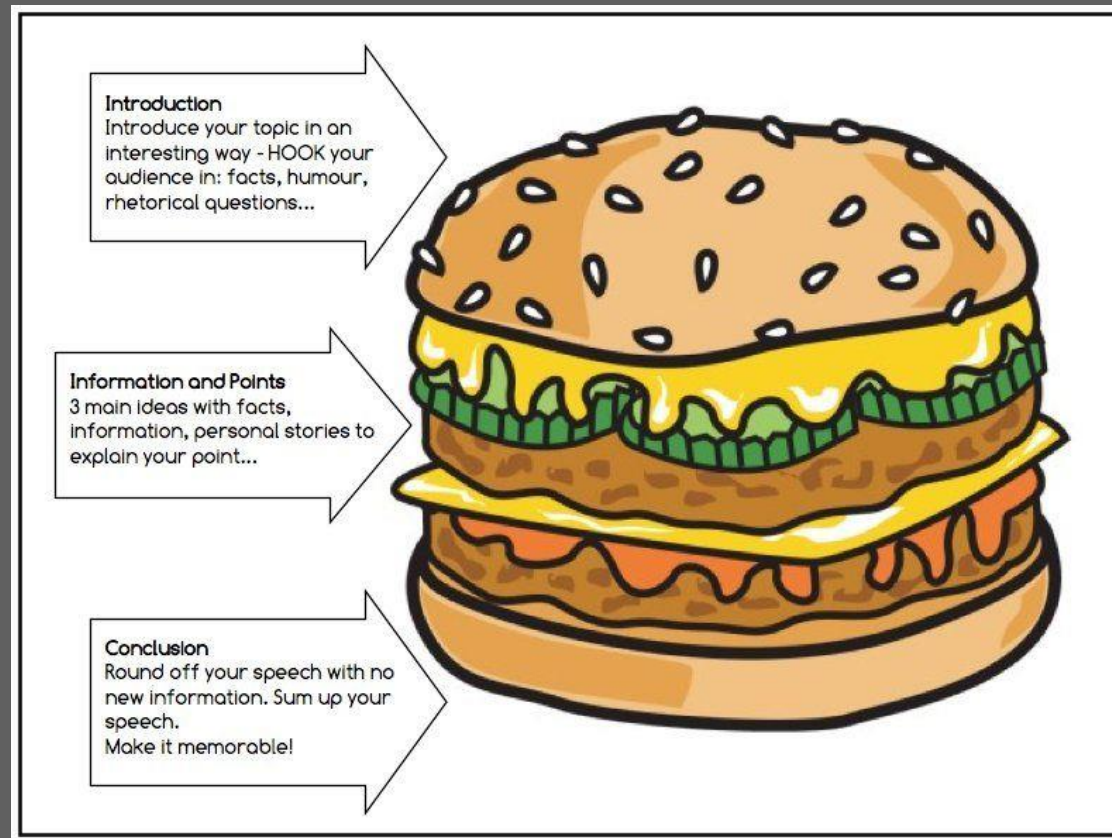
EXPLAIN the evidence → this clearly demonstrate that wild animals belong in the wilderness; not in restrictive, prison-like enclosures.

LINK to the topic → Animals must be freed from zoos now, so that this terrible suffering and mental torture ends for good.
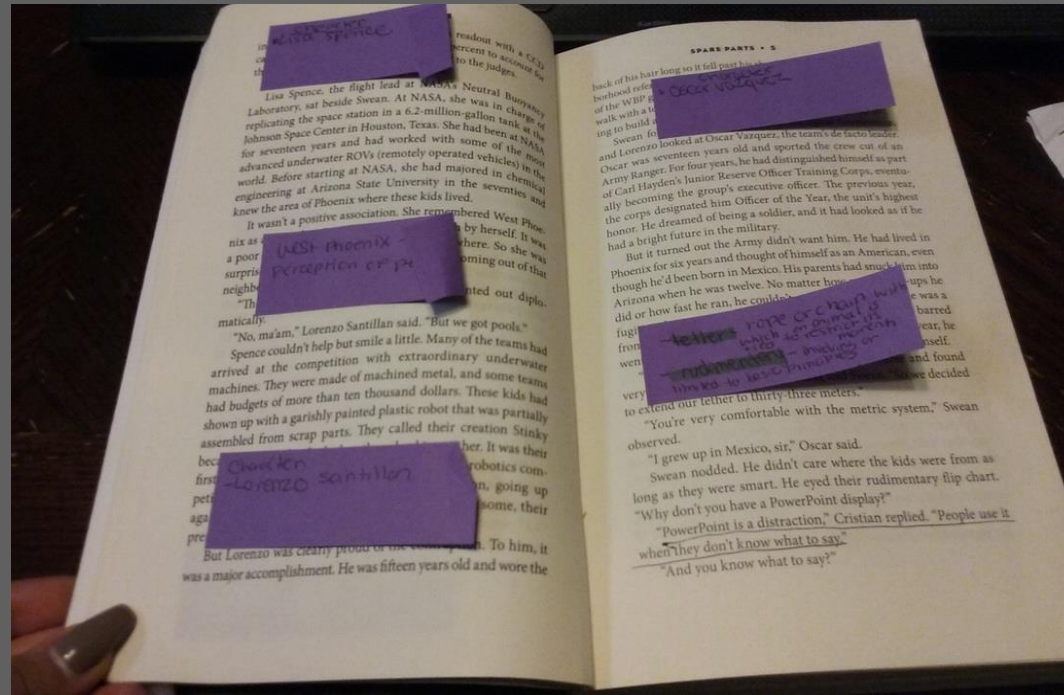
P 1. Point

L 4. Link

L 4. Link

E 3. Explanation

E 2. Evidence/Example

P 1. Point

Chunks

Introduction
Introduce your topic in an interesting way - HOOK your audience in: facts, humour, rhetorical questions...

Information and Points
3 main ideas with facts, information, personal stories to explain your point...

Conclusion
Round off your speech with no new information. Sum up your speech.
Make it memorable!

Visual planning 1

Mini sticky notes & sticky notes

Visual planning 2

Whiteboard
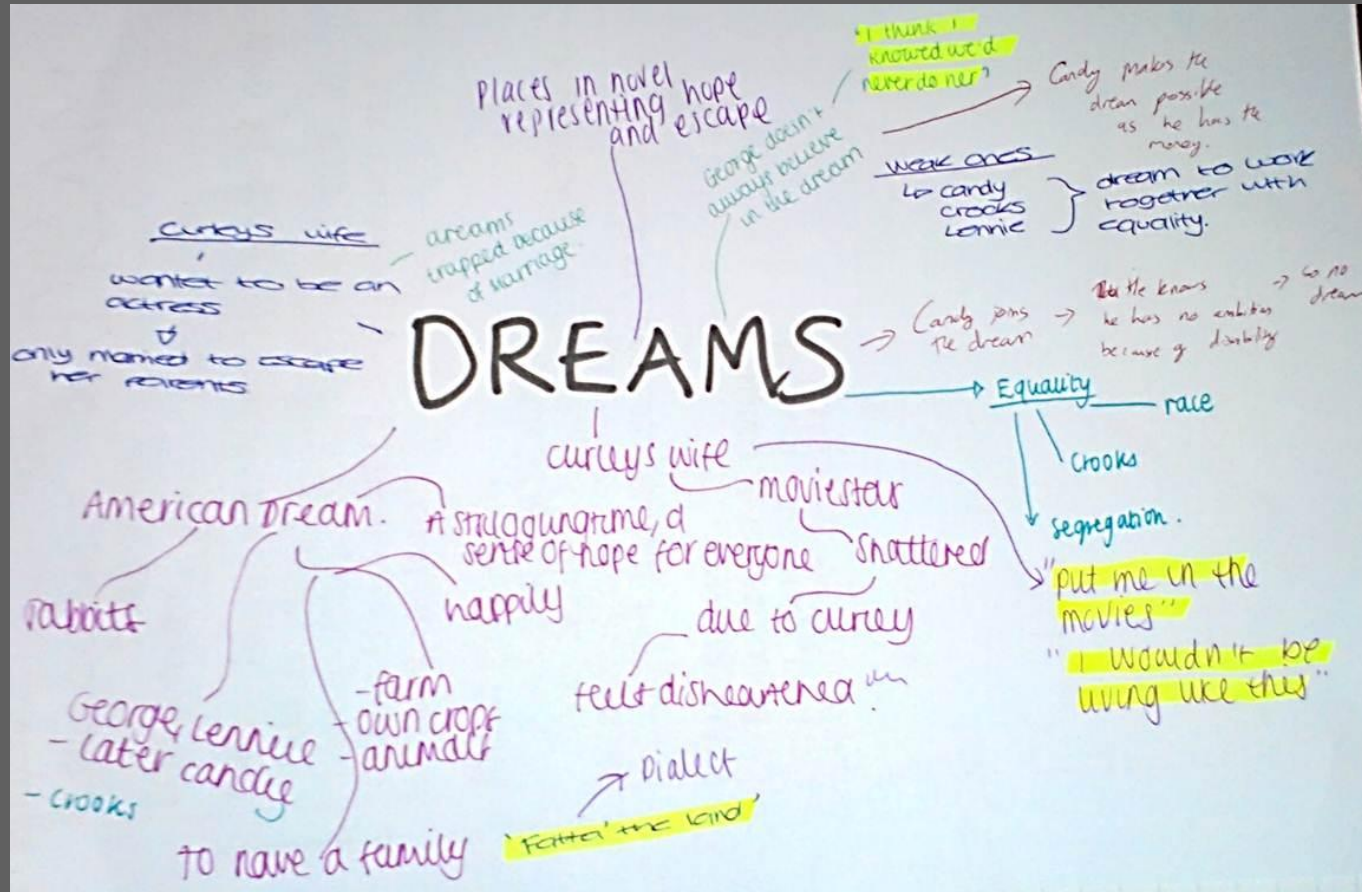
Assistive technology
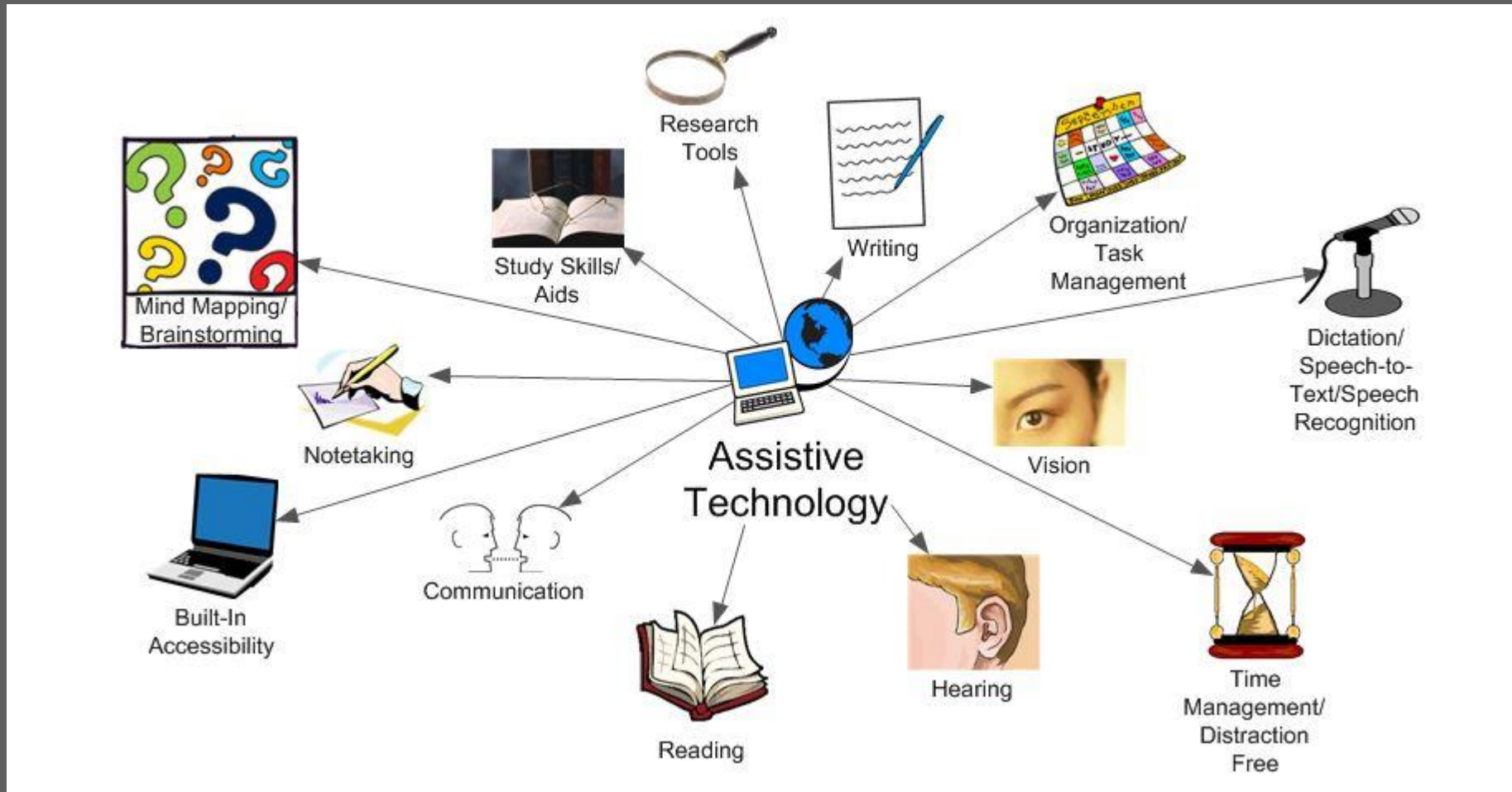
Mind maps for planning
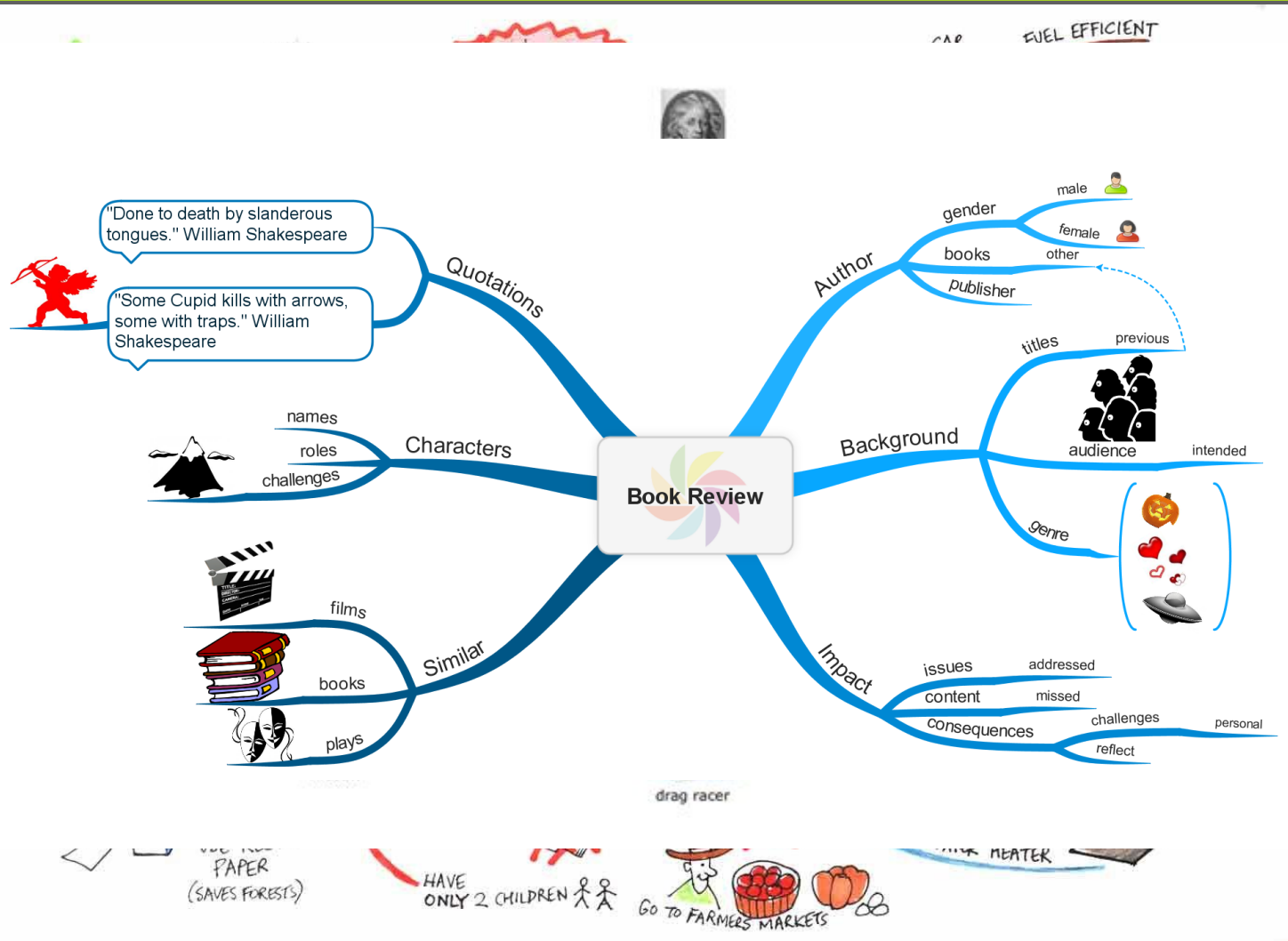
Apps for mind mapping:
- Xmind
- Inspiration
- SimpleMind

Free Edition

Lifetime license, includes updates, limited functionality

Choose edition: SimpleMind - Free Edition ▼

Choose a Platform

- ✔ Actively improved based on customer feedback.
- ✔ It's **Free**!
- ✔ Dependable: kept up-to-date for **8** years running.
- ✔ No ads, no registration.

macOS	Windows	Available on the App Store	ANDROID APP ON Google Play
30-day license, full functionality	30-day license, full functionality	lifetime license, limited functionality	lifetime license, limited functionality

SimpleMind for Mac requires **OS X Yosemite** (version 10.10) or higher.

SimpleMind for PC requires Microsoft's **Windows 7** or higher.

SimpleMind for iPad/iPhone requires **iOS 8** or higher.

SimpleMind for Android requires **Android Ice Cream Sandwich** (version 4.0) or higher.

Technology for planning – voice memo
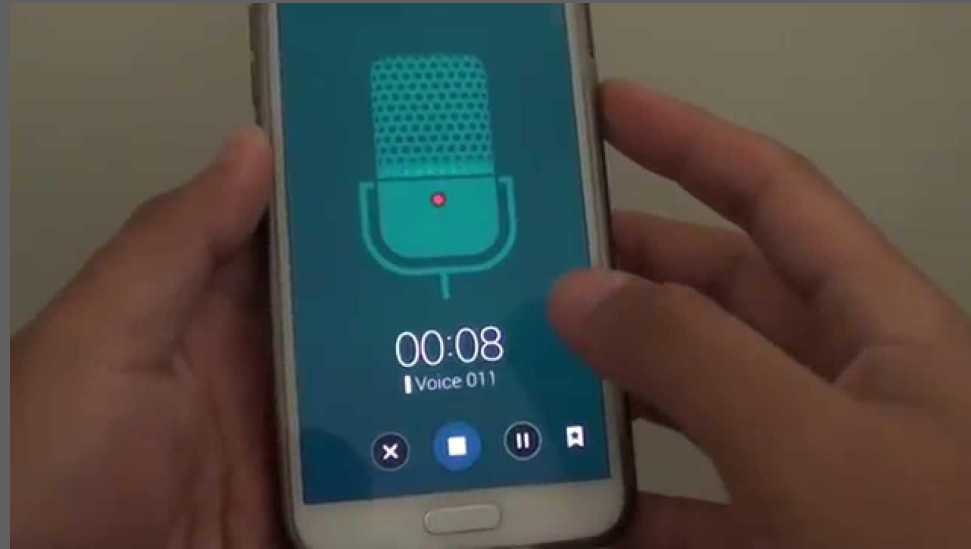
Technology to support writing - Windows
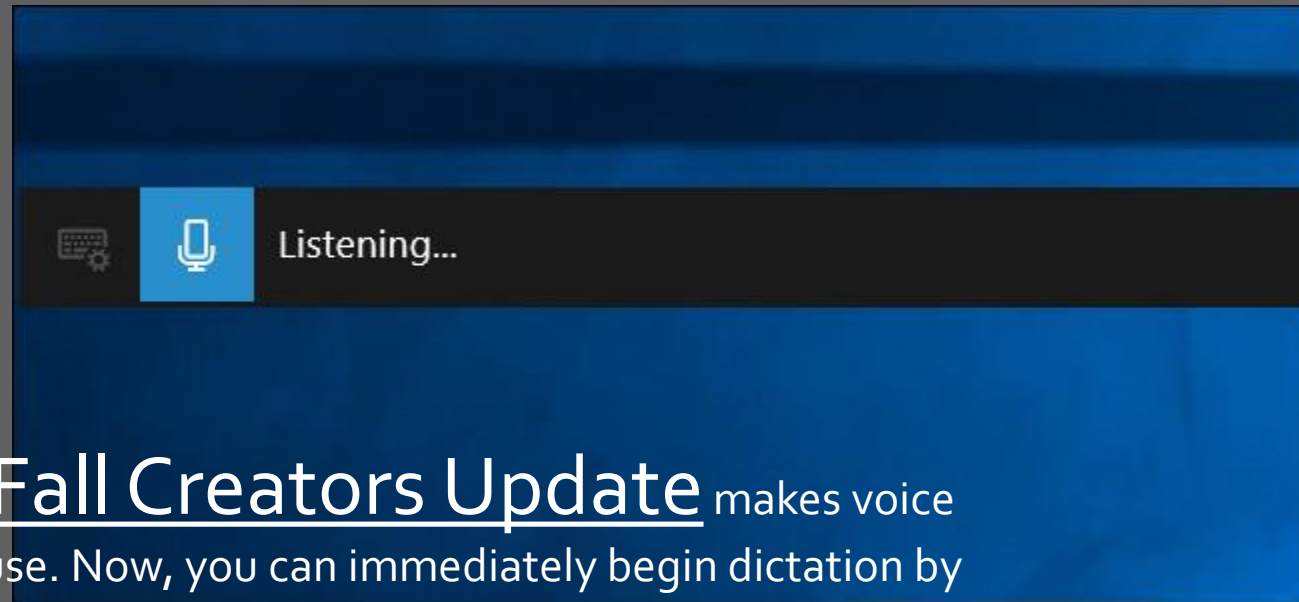
Windows 10's Fall Creators Update makes voice dictation much easier to use. Now, you can immediately begin dictation by pressing a key Windows+H on your keyboard. You don't have to dig through the Control Panel and set anything up first.

The old **Speech Recognition tool** is still accessible via the Control Panel. It has some advanced features you won't find in the new dictation tool, like the ability to navigate your desktop with voice commands. But most people will prefer the new dictation tool for more basic dictation.

Technology to support writing - Apple

Technology – voice dictation

Speech to text
- Dragon Dictate
- Speak it

Read out loud

macOS Sierra: Hear your Mac speak text

If you have trouble reading text on your screen, you can have your Mac speak the text whenever you press a key or set of keys.

1. Choose Apple menu > System Preferences, click Accessibility, then click Speech.

2. Select the "Speak selected text when the key is pressed" checkbox.

   By default, speaking is enabled when you press Option-Esc. To choose a different key, click Change Key, press one or more modifier keys (Command, Shift, Option, or Control) together with another key, then click OK.

3. To have your Mac start speaking, press the specified key. To stop the speaking, press the key again.

   If text is selected when you press the key, the selected text is spoken. Otherwise, available text items in the current window are spoken; for example, if Mail is the current window, an email message is read.

   Note: If no text items are available, you hear a beep.

To turn off this feature, deselect the "Speak selected text when the key is pressed" checkbox.

You can also use VoiceOver, the spoken interface for macOS, to hear descriptions of every item on the screen and to control your Mac using the keyboard. For more information, see VoiceOver overview.