



## CmapTools: A Window in a Student's Mind

James Gorman, Northbridge High School ([jgorman@nps.org](mailto:jgorman@nps.org))

Jane Heinze-Fry, Educational Consultant ([jahfry@rcn.com](mailto:jahfry@rcn.com))

Based on the theories of meaningful learning and education, we present practical classroom examples that employ CmapTools, a software tool that allow users to collaborate in the construction of shared knowledge models based on concept maps. CmapTools is used worldwide by all disciplines and ages, from elementary school students to NASA scientists. In this session, we discuss how to take advantage of these tools in the classroom to gain a window in the student's mind.

This software package is FREE to all who download. The Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC), with the support of NASA and the US DOD, and the government of Panama, has led the development of CmapTools which is used by students and professionals in over 150 countries.

The presentation takes advantage of CmapTools power and provides student examples. Sampling of applications presented are:

- Electronic Portfolios (student & teacher)
- Massachusetts State Frameworks: strand maps and learning progressions
- Comparison of local and State standards
- Collaborative work (PLCs)

Download CmapTools: <http://cmap.ihmc.us/>

The presentation can be viewed on the Internet: <http://cmapspublic3.ihmc.us/rid=1GGHZR9LM-1BP9JF6-C3J/MassCUE%20Presentation%20Homepage.cmap>

View with CmapTools: <cmap://cmapspublic3.ihmc.us/rid=1GGHZR9LM-1BP9JF6-C3J/MassCUE%20Presentation%20Homepage.cmap>

With support from Microsoft Corporation, IHMC established an on-line community of knowledge builders, Cmappers (<http://www.cmappers.net/>). It is a place where you can learn more about concept mapping and its applications.

**Focus Question:** How can CmapTools be employed to give a view of what a student understands and foster deeper learning ?

