

# WIMAGE

## Educational benefits and uses of the Wimage application:

- Ability to capture creative ideas quickly. Many students struggle with putting their ideas down on paper, whether that's through writing or drawing. With the Wimage application, students can easily type or speak words and then images of those words instantly appear. They are no longer hindered by things such as poor fine motor skills or lack of perceived drawing ability. Wimage becomes a visual journal of students' ideas.
- Enhances storytelling ability. Many students are challenged by idea generation in general: they don't know what to write about. In Wimage they can input seemingly random words and then manipulate them in size, color, orientation, location, etc. This process of physically manipulating the images sparks creative story ideas. New ideas unfold as the images are changed and moved and as new images are added. Playing with their ideas in such an easy and fun way and creating a visual story first causes the transition of students to *writing* their story to be much less challenging and much more motivating.
- For vocabulary building and language comprehension. Often times there are communication barriers between teachers and English Language Learner (ELL) students. Images are a universal language and therefore the Wimage application can be used to increase understanding of words and decrease frustration, thereby aiding the learning process for students who struggle with comprehension (this includes young children as well).
- Teaching visual literacy. Visual literacy is the ability to both comprehend and create images, and is an essential 21<sup>st</sup> century skill. This means that teachers need to find ways to cultivate this skill in their students. The Wimage application allows students of various ages and abilities to create visual content in a way that is easy to understand and do.
- The application is especially ideal for students who have visual-spatial intelligence and for those who are visual and/or kinesthetic learners since the basis of the innovative technology is that it turns words into images, and it's very hands-on.