A conceptual and innovative approach in aiding graduate students ability to synthesize material to write clear literature reviews. This approach uses concept maps constructed on the Apple iPad and Laptop computer as educational tools to enhance the student-learning outcome. As graduate students, it is important we understand research principals and practices. Learning and understanding what authors have previously said about a subject and synthesize that information as a review of the literature, is an important part of the graduate students curriculum. The problem arises in that not all students have the ability to write a clear and concise literature review. Students struggle to distinguish between relevant and unrelated research and to synthesize the findings in these studies.

To address this issue, in an IUPUI graduate class, students, in assigned research groups organized the literature into concept maps on the Apple iPad and Laptop computers to help synthesize for writing their literature review. A concept map is a representation of ideational frameworks for a given text of meaning and is a proven tool for meaningful learning. Concept maps can also provide the basis for assessment of the student’s knowledge amongst multiple concepts for deeper understanding and synthesis. With this conceptual tool and the use of an innovative technology, such as the Apple iPad creates an approach for meaningful and engaging learning for students.
References


Husain, L. (2010). Stanford School of Medicine is giving the iPad to all incoming medical students. (2010, Sept 2).


