

Concept Mapping

What Is A Concept Map?

Concept maps are types of graphic organizers used to organize and illustrate knowledge on particular concepts. Concept maps center in on a main idea, and then branch out on how the main idea may be broken down into specific details or topics.

When Should I Use A Concept Map?

Concept maps can be used for courses with topics that can be organized by concepts with key information. When there is a structure, concept maps may be used as a visual aid to demonstrate understanding.

How To Use A Concept Map:

1. Select the topic/concept you are learning about in a course.
2. In your notes, underline, circle or highlight the key information regarding the main topic (i.e. dates, key people, formulas, vocabulary terms, etc.)
3. Think of the connections between the topic and key information. For example, is there a cause and effect relationship? Is there a sequence of events occurring? Is there a hierarchical relationship among the components of the topic/concept?
4. Write the main topic or concept on a notecard. Write the key information each on separate notecards. NOTE: This can also be done on a white board or blank page.
5. Considering the structure of the relationship between the main topic and key information, create groups, according to how they relate to the main topic.
6. From the organization of the notecards, create a concept map. Below are some examples.

