

Instructor Guide for Concept Mapping

(SPARK >> Exploring >> Gathering & Noting Ideas)

NOTE: This resource helps students learn how to process, connect, and organize complex ideas and information, so there is usually no “right answer”. Thus the resource is best for individual use and/or to generate discussion. However, there may be occasions where it’s appropriate to assign and evaluate a concept mapping task, for example to test comprehension of complex material and interconnections or as a component of an annotated bibliography. This resource is similar to the Brainstorming and Mind Mapping resources, and they could be used sequentially with the Concept Map being the most structured.

Skills Addressed

- drawing connections between/among ideas, theories, readings, authorial approaches etc.
- organizing ideas and readings meaningfully
- beginning to construct arguments

Suggested Uses

- Independent student use:** Ask/suggest that students read resource on their own and decide for themselves when/if/how they will use resource
- Instructor-led Discussion:** Devote lecture/tutorial time to describing the resource, its purposes and uses, and/or incorporate description and use of resource into broader discussion focusing on building the skills the resource targets
Tip: Students often find it more difficult to identify the relationships between concepts than to identify the concepts themselves, so modeling the naming of links between concepts in the mapping process can be particularly valuable.
- Small Group Discussion:** Use to stimulate informal class/tutorial discussion, and/or small group discussion

Feedback / Evaluation Options

- Personal reflection and/or self-assessment**
- Informally, in small group discussion:** Assign to students to complete for sharing and discussion in small groups
- Peer Evaluation:** Assign to students to complete independently, for more formal peer evaluation
- Instructor Evaluation:** Assign to students to complete independently, or as one stage of a larger assignment, and hand in for formal instructor evaluation
- Tracking Completion without Evaluating:** Assign to students to complete resource independently (on an ongoing basis, or at specific, appropriate times during the course), then hand in to instructor to track completion without assigning a specific grade to any individual completed resource

Potential Customization:

This resource can be assigned as a review exercise to connect different areas of the course or theories. It can be helpful if the instructor provides and explains a sample Concept Map as a way to summarize and connect aspects of the course.