

Instructor Guide for

Mind Mapping

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

NOTE: This resource is best used at the early stages of an assignment to help students generate and begin to connect and organize ideas. This resource is similar to the Brainstorming and Concept Mapping resources, and they could be used sequentially with the Concept Map being the most structured.

Skills Addressed

- generating and drawing connections among ideas, theories, readings, authorial approaches, etc.
- stimulating unexpected ideas and associations
- integrating sources and organizing ideas meaningfully
- constructing 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

Students can be asked to complete the mind map at different stages in the preparation of an assignment as a means to encourage and demonstrate the development of their thinking and understanding.