

Mind Mapping

Mind mapping is a creative approach to notetaking, studying, and generating ideas (e.g. when starting a big paper) that incorporates visual style to depict hierarchy and relationships of concepts. Give it a try!

Benefits



Can reflect your personal thought processes

If you mind map

in class, visually

distinguish your

them from the

course content

own ideas to clarify

then what?

Can show non-linear concept building and flow of ideas

Useful when information is developed through conversation, is less clearly structured, or when you have few visual aids in class

Encourages understanding, analysis, and connecting concepts.

Getting started

By hand: start with the main topic written at the centre or top of the page. You may find blank or dot-lined pages more conducive for mind mapping!

Digitally: Try out mind mapping software like Coggle. Ayoa, X-Mind, or create mind maps in OneNote!

When taking notes in class, do NOT aim to write everything you see or hear.

- Write as much as allows you to stay engaged and attentive
- **Prioritize the structure** of information (headings, subheadings, key terms) so you can review what information was covered. Details can be filled in later if needed
- Pause, summarize and paraphrase concepts
- Check out the Notetaking handout and workshop for more tips!

The Process



Document information as it is provided, or as you think of it through branching

Include definitions, key 🚣 terms, sub-categories, examples, even your own ideas!

Branch thickness, style, or colour can show hierarchy

You can label branches too!

Outline, number, and format (underline, **bold**, colour) to separate ideas, distinguish types of information, and show importance.

e.g. When examples stand out you can quickly recognize and understand concepts!

Allow ideas to flow, writing in your own words, and using **short form** that makes sense to you.

There are as many ways to mind map as there are minds! **Play** with your process of creation to find techniques and materials that work for you!



以 To learn more, book a one-on-one coaching appointment or attend a Learning Skills Workshop! Visit www.smu.ca/studentsuccess StudentSuccess@smu.ca