Mind mapping

WHAT IS IT?

Mind mapping is a visual exercise to help students organise and structure complex content. It focuses on developing a hierachy of information to work out key components, their subsets and relationships to each other. Focus on one central word or idea and use branches to depict the importance of ideas.

Mind maps can be used for individual or group activities or a mixture of both to help with brainstorming, problem solving and memory.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Suited to:

- ☑ Flat floor
- ☑ Tiered lecture
- ☑ Small classes
- ☑ Large classes

Activity time approximately runs for 10–15 minutes

WHY USE IT?

Mind mapping can help students to:

- identify and prioritise content,
- identify gaps in understanding, and
- unlock creative ideas or generate new ones.

HOW DO I DO IT?

1. Pose a challenging concept or idea that you want students to think about and explain to students the key principles of mindmapping:

   - Start with the proposed concept or idea in the centre
   - Write down any and all thoughts separately as key words (try to avoid long sentences)
   - Lines should be thinner, the further away it is from the central concept
   - Use different colours for themes or groups

2. Ask students to post or display their mind maps for in-class discussion and feedback. Use this opportunity to clear up any misconceptions and field questions.
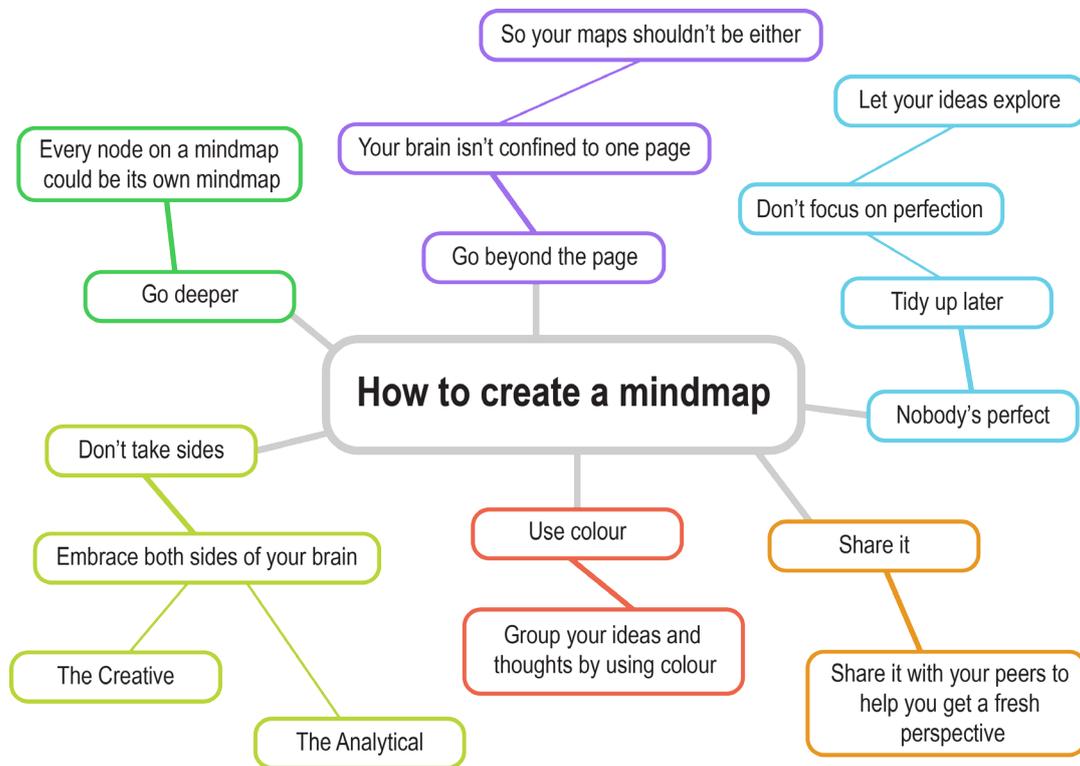
How to create a mindmap

Go deeper
- Every node on a mindmap could be its own mindmap

Go beyond the page
- Your brain isn't confined to one page
- So your maps shouldn't be either

Let your ideas explore
- Don't focus on perfection
- Tidy up later
- Nobody's perfect

Embrace both sides of your brain
- Don't take sides
- The Creative
- The Analytical

Use colour
- Group your ideas and thoughts by using colour

Share it
- Share it with your peers to help you get a fresh perspective

WHAT COULD I USE?

- Butchers paper / sticky notes / whiteboards
- Pens / markers / pencils (different colours)

Many digital tools for mind mapping are available. The following tools are not UQ supported and vary from free to pricing plans.

- Bubbl.us
- Mindmeister
- MindMaple
- Microsoft Word drawing tools

WHAT IF I NEED SUPPORT?

- ITaLI for support curriculum design, evaluation and analytics
- eLearning guides for UQ eLearning tools
- UQ Library teaching support offers tailored services and hosts Lynda.com (free online software training)
- UQ staff development for curriculum development support

WHAT IF I WANT MORE?

- Tony Buzan Mind Mapping tutorial [video 1:19]
- Mindmapping in Education - Mindmapping.com
- Mindmapping and Learning - Johns Hopkins School of Education
- Using Mind Mapping Tools to Promote Independent Learning and Study Skills - BBC Active