MIND MAPPING

Mind mapping or concept mapping is a technique for generating and organising ideas. It helps you make connections between ideas and link what at first might seem unrelated bits of information.

Developing a mind/concept map encourages you to think in terms of relationships and associations, a skill which is central to university study.

Tips for creating a mind map
- Use a large piece of paper. Landscape format is best.
- Place a word or an image to represent the main concept in the centre of the page.
- Write/draw every piece of information you can come up with about your main concept.
- Use a different shape/colour for each key concept/word/image.

More tips
- Look for relationships. Link ideas/words/images with lines and arrows.
- Start all connecting lines from the central word/image.
- Don't judge or edit your ideas at first. This can be done later.
- Use at least 3 colours.
- USE UPPERCASE for key words.
- Use lower case for supporting ideas.
- Develop your own colour code and style.

Mind maps stimulate your creativity. They are particularly useful for visual learners.

Tips
- Mind maps work best when they are unique and personal to you.
- There is no right or wrong way to create a mind map.

History
- Discovery
- Development
  **Smith et al**

Economics
- exporting major producers
  **Jones et al**

Health debate
- For: George (2007)
- Against: Park (2010, 2001)

Cultural importance
- “the role of tea in the British empire…”
- See notes from seminar 5
- Check quotes in Davies (2009)

Equipment
- Cup
- Water
- Tea
- Sugar
- Power

Procedure
- Step 1
- Step 2
- Step 3
- Step 4

Instructions...
Uses

As the mind/concept map adjacent shows, they can be used for a variety of academic purposes.

You can probably think of many more ways to use them beyond their use at university.

Advantages

1. Looking for key concepts ‘forces’ you to think clearly and to be precise.
2. Links between ideas, concepts and other information can be clearly marked.
3. Mind maps can help you structure your assignments and organise your ideas.
4. Adding new information is easy (very handy for note-taking and all open-ended tasks/thinking)
5. The use of symbols, colours, images, arrows boxes etc. can help you recall information under exam stress.
6. Mind mapping helps free writer’s block and stimulates the flow of ideas.

Mind/concept maps
- are an effective way to condense lecture notes
- provide easily accessible overviews of information, texts, projects
- are FUN to create.

Want to know more?

Tony Buzan http://www.tonybuzan.com/ popularized mind mapping. For more information, see his website. He has even written a book on mind mapping for children!

Free mind mapping software is available on the internet.

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