

MIND MAPPING

Mind mapping or concept mapping is a technique for **generating** and **organising** ideas, as well as for **planning** projects, research and assignments.

Mind/concept maps can also help you **make connections** between ideas and **link** what at first might seem unrelated bits of information.

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 at the centre.
- Write or draw all the information you can come up with about your topic or main concept.
- Use a different shape or colour for each key concept/word/image.

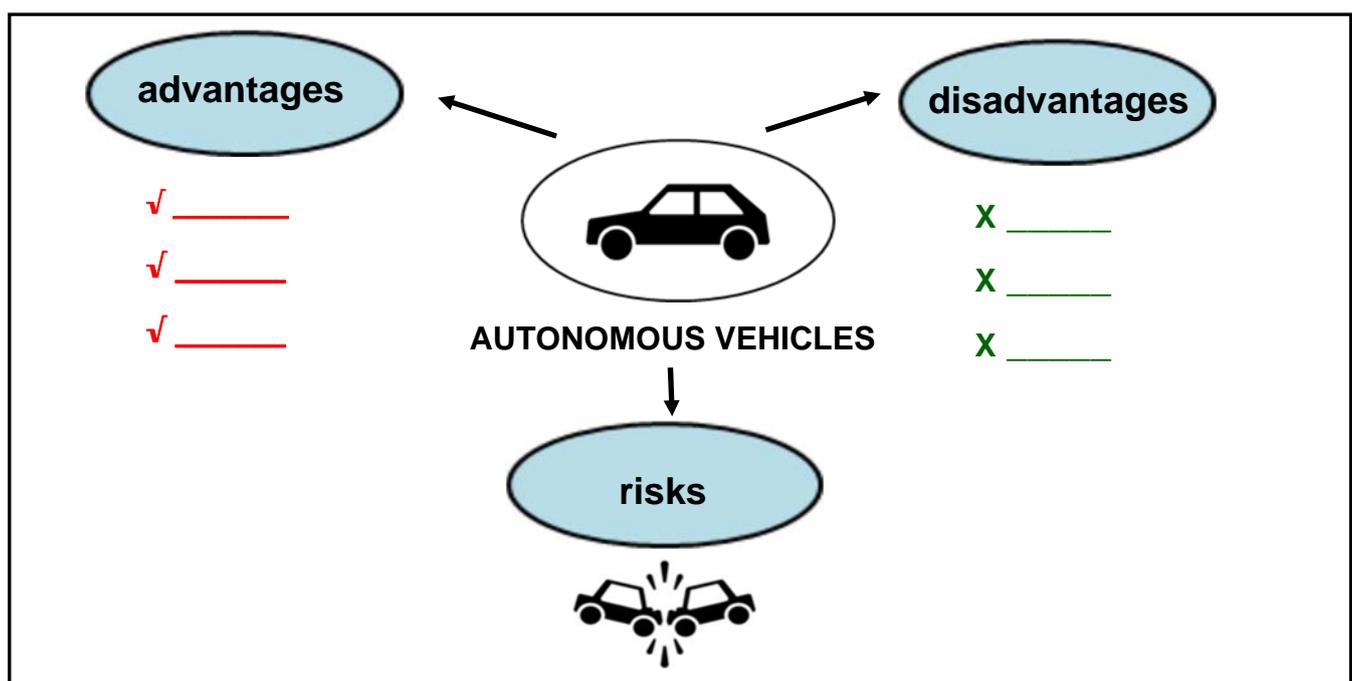
More tips:

- Look for **relationships**. Link ideas/words/images with lines and arrows.
- Start all connecting lines from the central word/image.
- **Include all** your ideas at first. You can edit them 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.

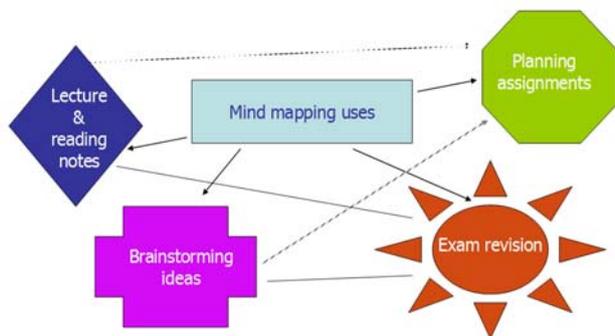
Did you know?

- Mind maps work best when they are *unique* and **personal** to you.



Uses

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



Mind/concept maps:

- are an effective way to condense lecture notes,
- provide easily accessible **overviews** of information, texts, projects, and
- are *FUN* to create.

TIP: 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. Using **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**.

Want to know more?

Tony Buzan made mind mapping popular and it is now used all over the world in universities, schools and businesses.

<http://www.tonybuzan.com/>

TIP: Free mind mapping software is available on the internet.

Like this Survival Guide? Why not check out more of our guides...

Critical Thinking, Read Effectively, Writing Critically, Notetaking.

Want to know more about STUDYSmarter?

Find out about all our services and resources at: www.studysmarter.uwa.edu.au

Any suggestions?

We would love to hear from you. Email us at study.smarter@uwa.edu.au

This resource was developed by the STUDYSmarter team for UWA students. When using our resources, please retain them in their original form with both the STUDYSmarter heading and the UWA logo.

