

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
- 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.



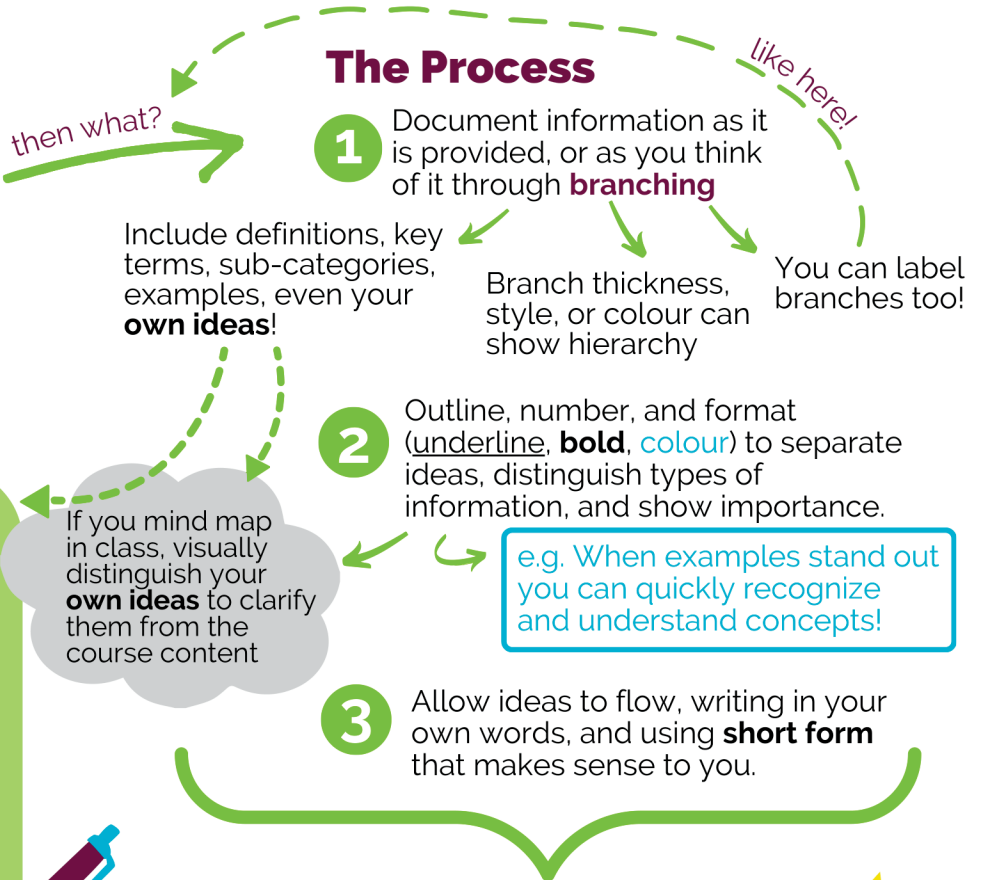
Getting started

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!



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!



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

