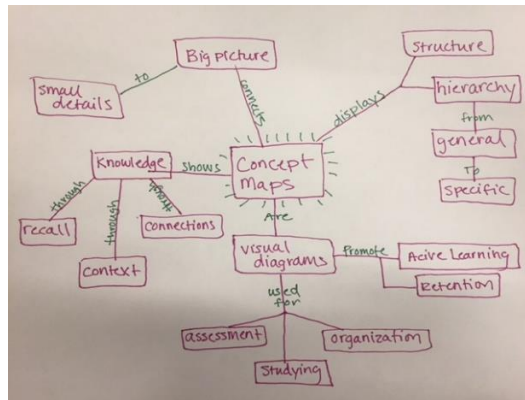


CONCEPT MAPS



Concept maps are a visual and active way to organize, understand, connect and learn material. In using concept mapping, key words and ideas are organized and connected to help the student learn and understand material in a systemic and visual way.

Step 1:

Write down a key word, phrase or heading in the center of a dry erase board, chalkboard, or sheet of paper. Think about this word, phrase, or heading – what does it mean, how does it relate to the area of study, what questions do you have, etc.

Step 2:

Start writing concepts, words, and ideas, that relate to the key word, phrase, or heading around the paper. Look at the whole picture of words. Think about how they all relate. At this point, you may discover words or ideas that are connected or relate to each other.

Step 3:

Begin to connect/link words, phrases, ideas, and symbols around the original subject with words to clarify their relationships. You can erase, re-write, or relocate important items closer to each other. For better organization, use different colors to organize information.

Step 4:

Begin to quickly and impulsively add other key words, ideas, and symbols. Continue combining concepts to expand your thinking. Become more specific and detailed in your ideas and relationships to the original subject.

Step 5:

Return to the map often and continue to add newly learned information. Look at the relationships you are developing, add new thoughts, words, and phrases and erase those that don't make sense. Continue to add details and other specifics to understand the concepts. This can be done right up to the time of an exam.