

Note-Taking System: Mind Maps

What are Mind Maps?

Mind maps are powerful, highly effective visual note-taking tools that aid in the memorization of information by organizing and rearranging material in a logical manner, highlighting the relationships between different topics. Information is organized from general to more specific, creating a skeleton that allows you to better understand the overall structure of the topic at hand.

Creating a Mind Map

- Construct a new mind map for each major concept
- Write the major concept in the center of the page
- Add any main ideas related to this concept and connect them to the major concept through lines radiating outward from the center
- Add any details supporting the main ideas, connect them to the main idea

Tips

- Be brief (write only keywords, not lengthy sentences)
- Use shorthand, abbreviations, symbols, images, and different colors to highlight different ideas and relationships
- Jot notes along the margin of your paper to help you better understand relationships between various mind maps

How To Study From A Mind Map

- Read one item at a time; explaining each item individually
- Connect the items by relevance (most detailed to major concept)
- Test your memory by trying to recreate the map
- Expand your knowledge on a topic by connecting it to other mind maps

Mind Map Samples

