"Follow this rule – every research project must deal with only one issue expressed by one question."

Badke, p. 235

Most people approaching the research task are facing a crisis of lack of proper focus. This is what causes the anxiety, the false view that research is tedious, the shabby research papers and the punishment from the profs who have to read them.

Focus, focus, focus. The more your project forms a clear, narrow and single-minded image in your head, the better off you are.

Badke, p. 225

The Research Process, continued

October 24, 2012

Last Time

- Assessing Your Needs
- Preliminary Research Strategies
- Developing Your Research Topic/Questions

(also: create a preliminary research paper outline as soon as you settle on a research question!)

Searching for information

- ## Where?
  - Internet
  - Library catalogs and databases
  - Anywhere else?

- ## Creating a strategy is important
  - Natural language vs. keyword searching; what happens when you search using a question or a sentence? *Try this!*
  - Pull out keywords, use subject headings
  - *PRO TIP:* write down your keywords/search terms

Gathering relevant information

- Not everything you find will be relevant
- Don't need to read thoroughly right now
  - Skim, read abstracts or summaries, check the table of contents and index, etc.
- Keep track of what you find
  - Email articles to yourself (**DON'T** copy + paste!); capture the citation if available
  - Consider keeping a research log

Read what you've found

- Take notes on each source
  - **DON'T** copy + paste!
  - Try using freewriting to summarize rather than paraphrasing
  - Develop your notes into annotations for the Annotated Bibliography
- It's OK to read a source more than once
- Begin to fit sources into your outline

Finish outline, draft, write

- Introduction
- Summarize/synthesize your sources
  - What do your sources say about your research question?
  - Sometimes this is called a literature review
- Your analysis
  - Figure out how to use data in your sources to answer your research question
- Conclusion

Brainstorming activity using bubbl.us

Make your own concept map!

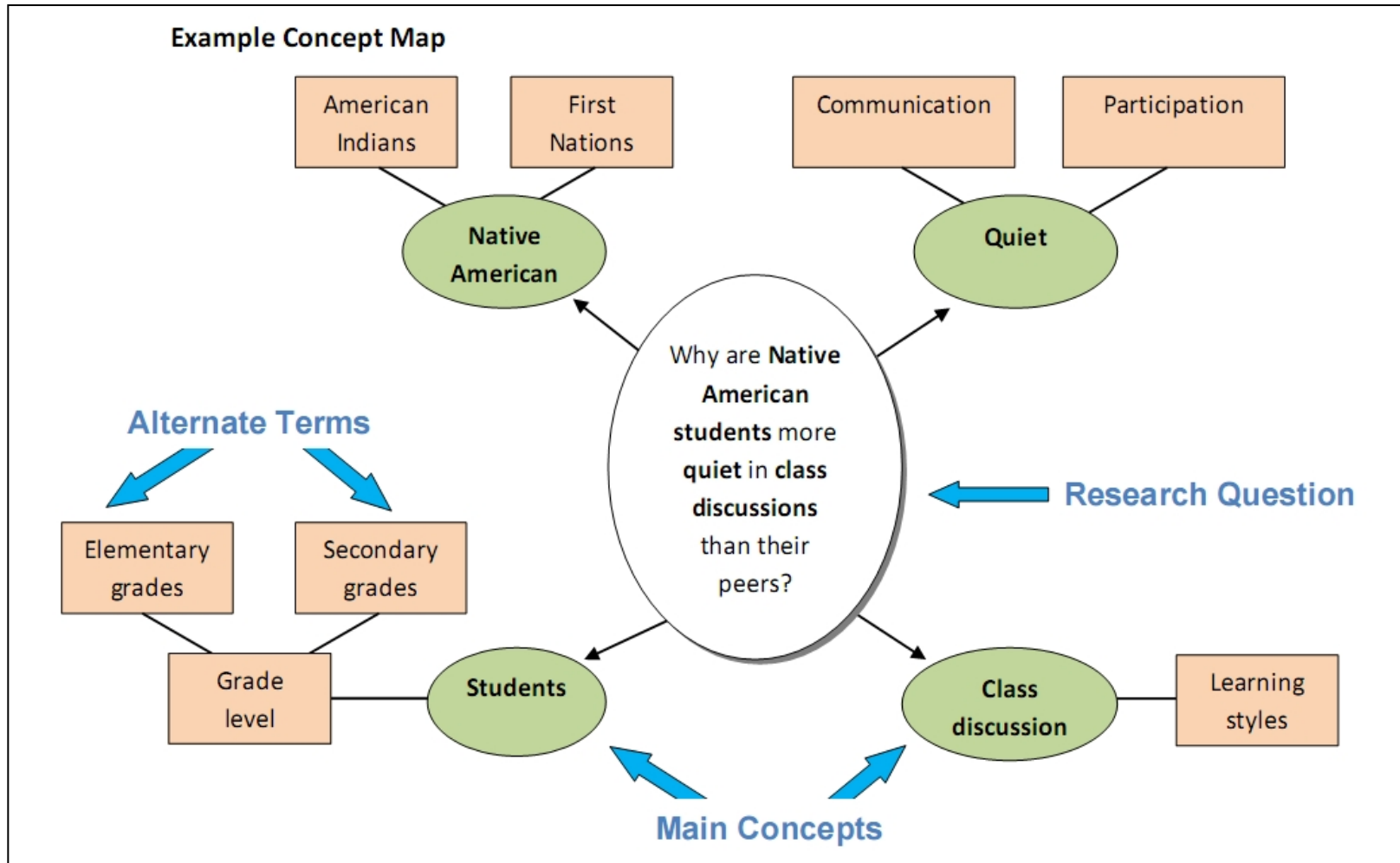Is it showing you what you know already?

Illustrating what you don't know?

Helping you arrive at a good question?

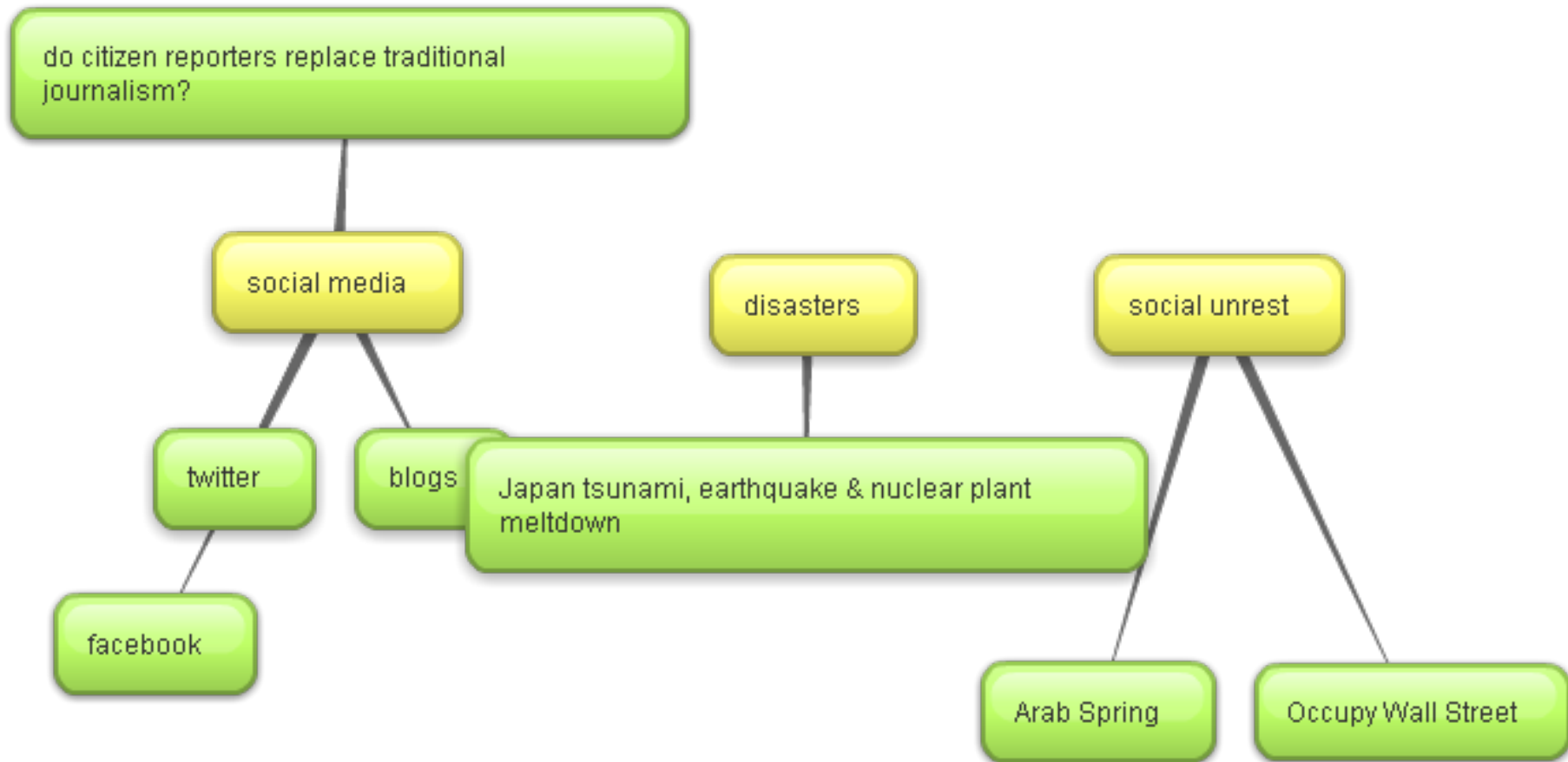Switch with your neighbor and share comments (peer review)

Export your map as .jpg or .png file, save to desktop & attach to an email to yourself

Concept Mapping

(Hawkins, Fabbi, MacMillen, 2009, p. 103)

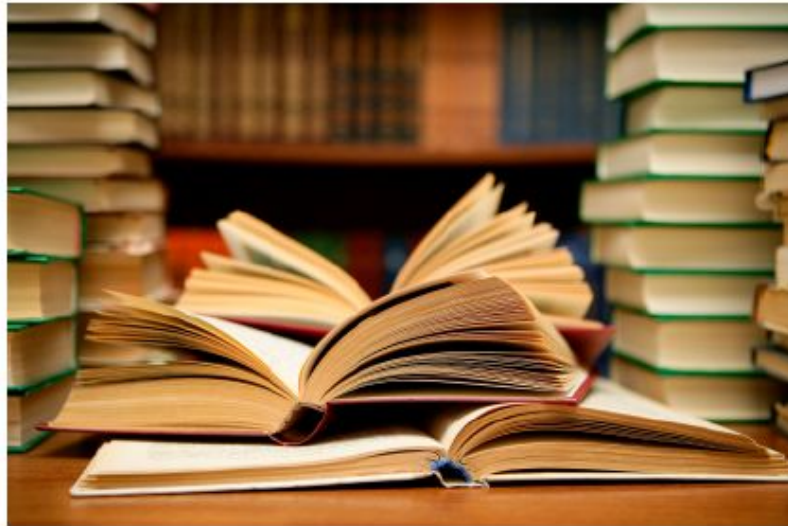# bubbl.us – Brainstorm & mind map to sketch out your ideas

EasyBib.com [Research Guide](#) | Create an account & get help with citing your sources in MLA Style, evaluating your sources, & organizing your ideas in an outline

EasyBib WriteSmart.

Creating a Successful Research Project

Steps:

1. Generating a Topic
2. Key Words
3. Narrowing the Topic
4. Research
5. Note Taking
6. Outline
7. Plagiarism
8. Bibliography

For Monday, October 29

Discussion: Advanced internet searching

Reading: Badke Ch. 6 (all) and Ch. 7 pp. 122-124

Viewing: Common Craft web search strategies video

Blogging: One research journal blog post (see next slide for prompt)

Research journal blog post prompt

You are working on choosing a topic and developing a research question for your paper. What difficulties (if any) have you encountered as you work on your research proposal?

What strategies (if any) have you used successfully during this work?

What questions (if any) do you have about the assignment?