

Concept Mapping

1. Identify the main idea or topic of the content passage. Write it anywhere on the page, leaving room for additional information to be written around it.
2. Circle the main idea or topic.
3. Identify secondary categories, which may be subheadings.
4. Connect the secondary categories to the main idea.
5. locate supporting details
6. Connect supporting details to the idea or category they support.
7. Connect all components to produce coherent meaning.
8. Mapping is recommended for portions of a chapter that the instructor identifies as important, mainly to help students understand the superordinate/subordinate relationship.

Methods of Informal Writing Assignments

1. A question provided at the beginning of class can serve to review material from the previous session, verify completion of the day's assigned reading, or encourage speculation on a new topic to prime in-class discussion.
2. Focused writing during the class period can provide a forum to cool a heated discussion, to stimulate ideas when discussion is lagging, or to summarize (or express confusion about) challenging new information.
3. A dual-entry notebook can promote the pairing of observation and analysis. The student may observe visual information (such as a lab experiment or a work of art), research presented in a scholarly article, etc. on the left side of the page. The observation would then be paired with mental process on the right side of the page in the form of a hypothesis regarding the reason for the observed phenomenon or an argument for or against the accuracy of the presented information based on ideas read elsewhere or presented in class.
4. Creative writing such as imagined dialogues between writers, researchers, historical figures, characters, etc. can provide a light-hearted way of engaging deeply with course content.

Assignment Handout Checklist

- 🍏 Do students know what they need to do? Is the task clear?
- 🍏 Do students know what they're being graded for?
- 🍏 Do my students know which essay format they are being asked to compose? An argumentative essay? A compare/contrast essay? An analysis? A proposal? A research paper? And have I confirmed that they know how to write that format?
- 🍏 Have I expressed who the intended audience is for this paper?
- 🍏 Have I listed the assignment requirements? Length? Deadlines? Reference-style and formatting? Font, margins, title page, bibliography?
- 🍏 Have I expressed the acceptable and minimum number of sources (e.g.: a minimum of 5 articles from scholarly journals)?
- 🍏 Have I stressed the importance of proofreading? (peer evaluation can be helpful.)
- 🍏 Has class material prepared students for this assignment?