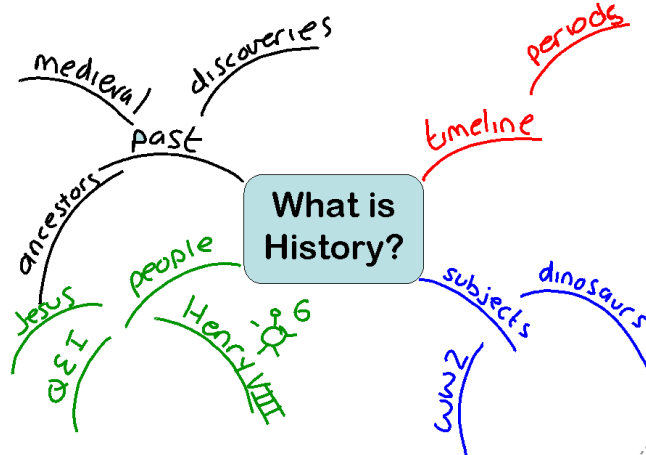


Collect and Organize Information with a Mind Map

Mind mapping (Tony Buzan, 1968), which is also called “clustering ideas”, is a way of collecting ideas around a particular topic and defining connections. This can be defined as a “nonlinear brainstorming process akin to free association” (Rico, 1983 p.28). Brainstorming was defined by Alex Osborn in 1941 as a creativity technique by which efforts are made to gather a list of ideas around a central topic.

The rules are: no criticism of ideas, go for large quantities of ideas, build on ideas, and encourage wild and exaggerated ideas. When these rules are followed, a lot more ideas are created and that a greater quantity of original ideas gives rise to a greater quantity of useful ideas. Particularly at the beginning of the writing process, you may explore a topic and generate content by creating a clustering diagram.

Examples of Clustering and Mind Mapping



As you make new connections, you will also see where there are gaps and what you don't know about the topic. This can lead you to identifying what you need to research about the subject.

Once you have a reasonable amount of information, you can start to develop the relationships between and among the ideas. This technique is called “Concept Mapping” and allows you to continue to elaborate on the basic ideas that you have generated.

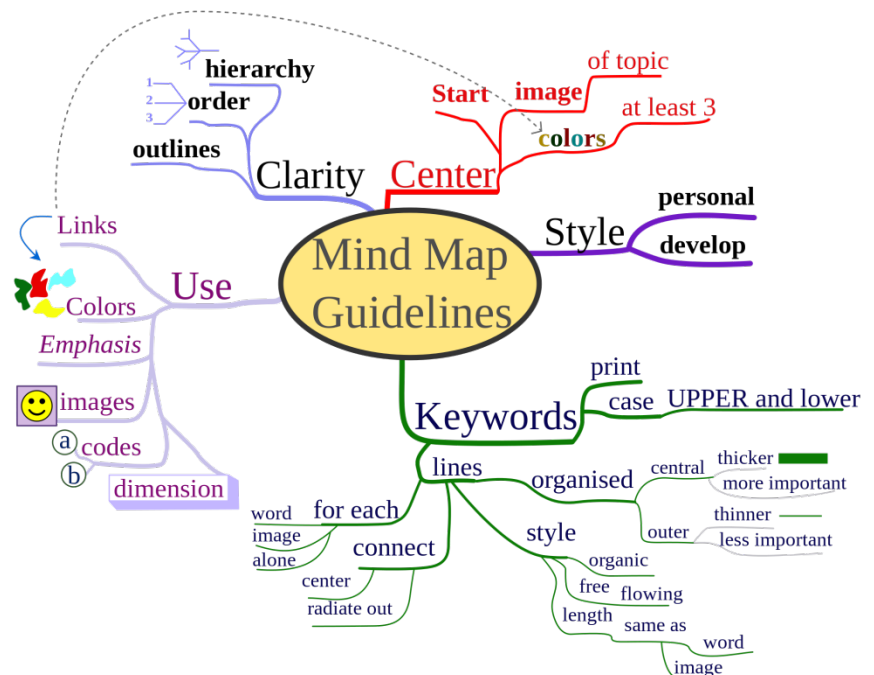
Also see:

http://www.kpu.ca/sites/default/files/Learning%20Centres/Reflect_ConceptMap_LA.pdf

Clustering is a good way to start the process of inventing new writing but may need elaboration to be useful to the process of academic writing.

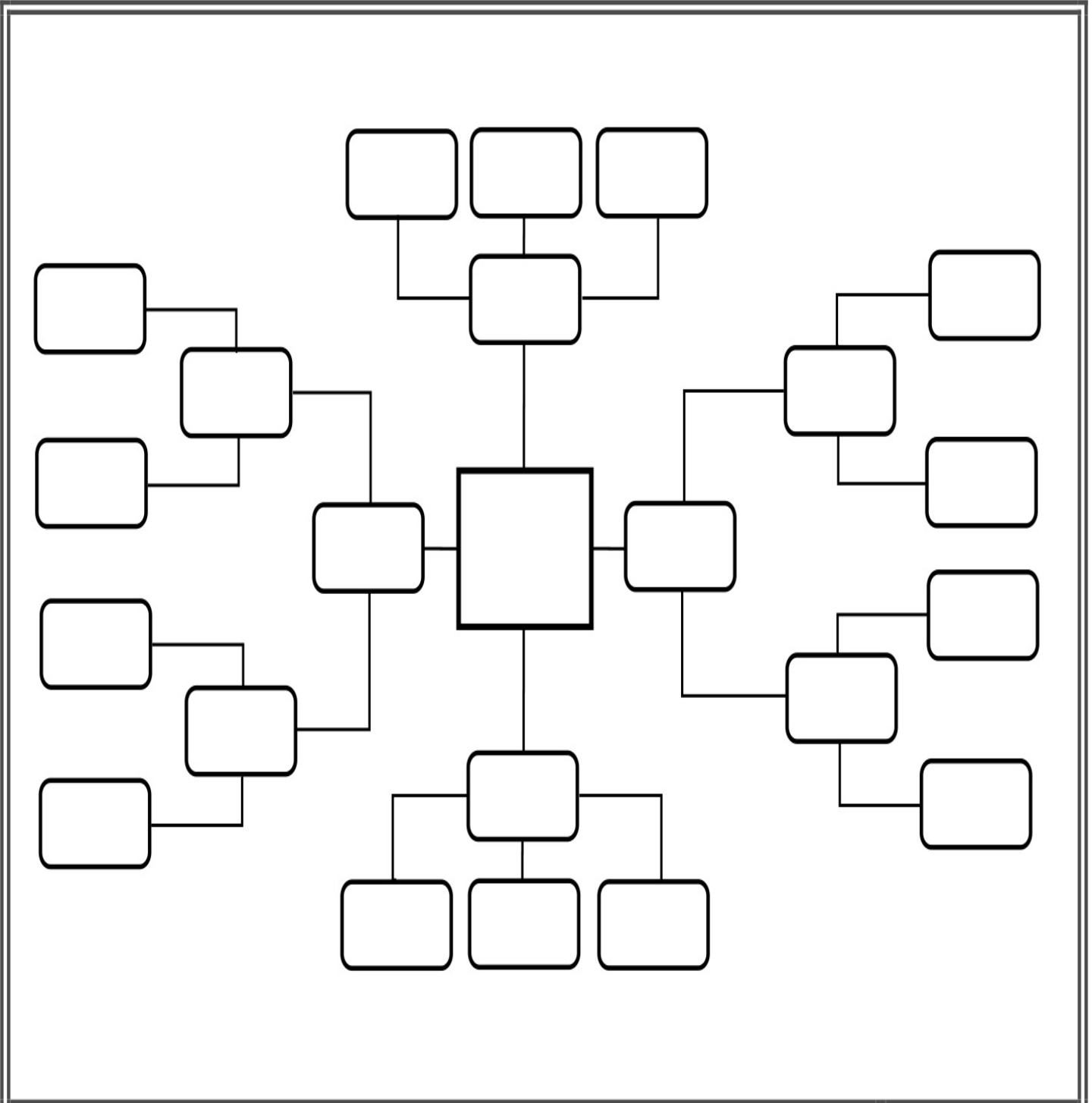
Start with what you know. This may be as little as one word. The next step is to define your word. Each part of the definition can become a new circle in your mind map.

You will ask, “Who, What Where, When, why, and How” questions to help identify what you know and / or remember about your topic.



Collect and Organize Information with a Mind Map

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Subject:

Date: