

Note Taking: Mind Maps

Creating mind maps is a powerful, highly effective visual note-taking method that aids 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.

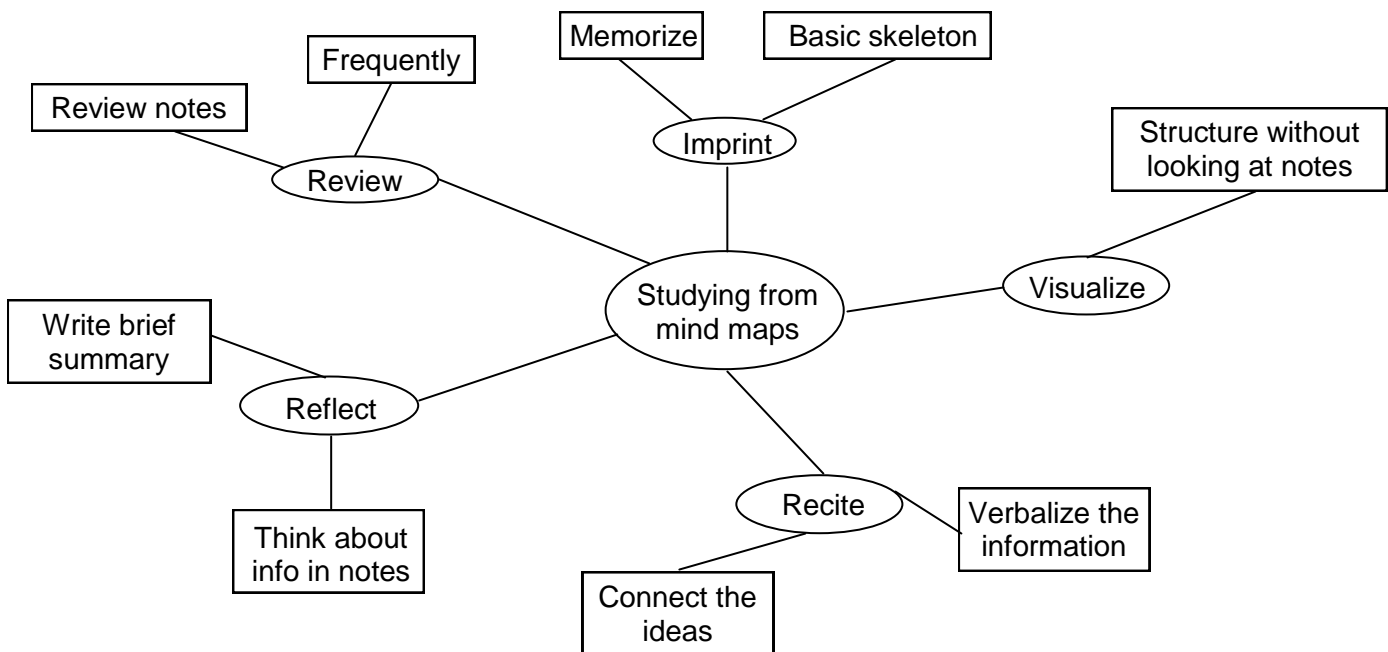
How to Use

- Turn a large, blank sheet of paper horizontally (use a 11 x 17 inch sheet if possible)
- Write the major concept in the center of the page and circle it
- Add and circle any main ideas related to this concept; these ideas should connect to the major concept through lines radiating outward from the center
- Record any details supporting the main idea, using lines to connect them to the main idea
- Construct a new mind map for each major concept

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

Example



Adapted from: Wong, L. (2006). *Essential study skills* (5th ed.). Boston: Houghton Mifflin.