CONCEPTUAL MAP

Nowadays, we are increasingly looking to improve the way we study and absorb knowledge, aiming to help you, as supplementary material for this course, I will introduce you to the CONCEPTUAL MAP technique and demonstrate how to proceed to its creation. I want to inform you that I have applied this technique in my studies, and it has helped me a lot with understanding and fixing knowledge.

The Conceptual Map is a graphic organizer that is intended to portray knowledge, in other words, it is a map that uses visual symbols to schematically represent knowledge, being formed by a set of propositions, whose composition is formed by two concepts and a connection expression.

For a better understanding, let's define what the concepts and the connection expression are.

Initially, concepts are defined as patterns noticed in objects and events; in other words, the concepts are specifications that linguistically encode the patterns that we perceive.

Some examples: concrete nouns (objects, people, animals, among others) and abstract nouns (quality, notions, feelings, among others), which can also be a semantic unit, a mental symbol, or a unit of knowledge.

The connection expression is the set of words that have the function of relating two concepts, promoting clarity in the sense of the proposition. IMPORTANT, the connection expression has a verb, as it gives semantic clarity.

After understanding the definitions above, we can detail how the proposition is formed.

Three elements form the proposition: initial concept, connection term, and the final concept. It worth emphasizing that the connection between them is made by an arrow that indicates the direction of the reading. Let's take an example:
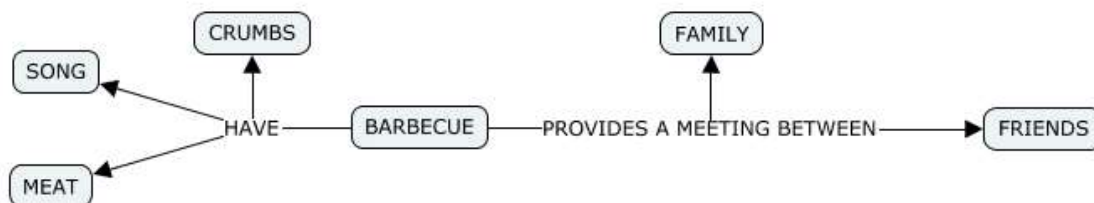
Which:

1) "Soccer" is an initial concept;

2) "is a" is a connection expression;

3) "Sport" is a final concept.

For the creation of an excellent conceptual map, it is necessary to observe some parameters, they are:

1. The delimitation of the theme makes it easy to choose concepts and connection expression and is the most efficient way to control the size of the concept map;

2. Propositions must have semantic clarity and need to communicate the conceptual relationships represented;

3. The organization of concepts must be hierarchical, starting with the most general until to the most specifics;

4. Conceptual map reviews should always be carried out, according to the learning of the map creator.

5. The number of arrows present in the concept map identifies the number of propositions.

It is crucial an example to fix the explanation better.
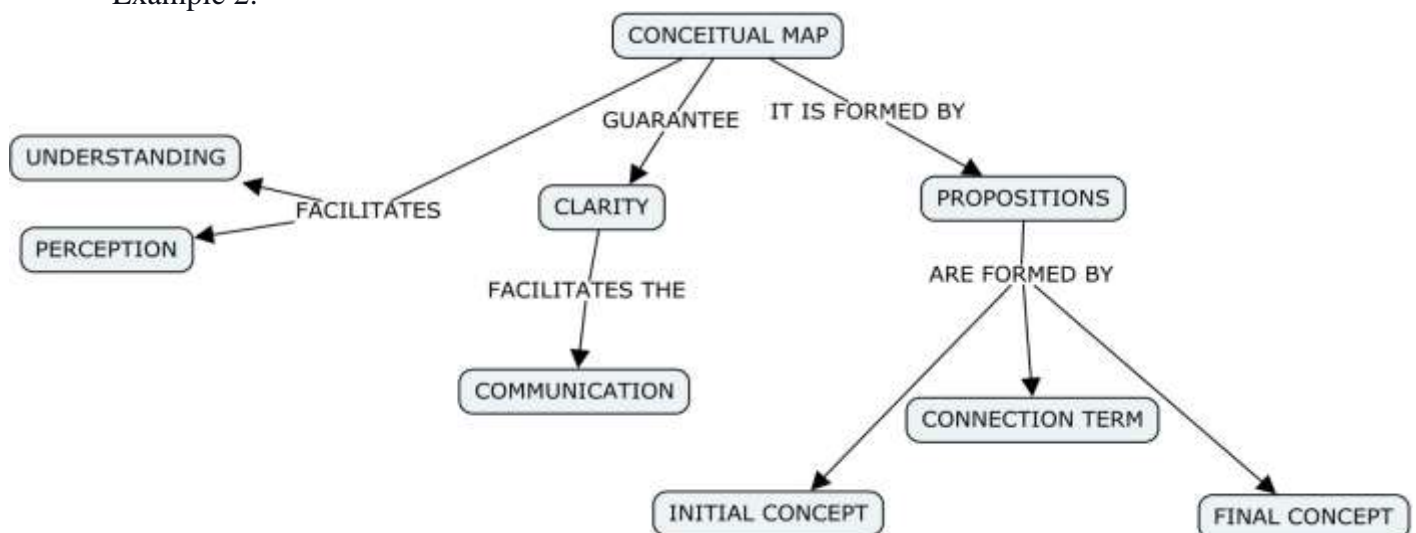
Example 1:

In the case above, it presents a simple conceptual map about barbecue.

In it, we identify:

- Six concepts: BARBECUE, FRIENDS, FAMILY, CRUMBS, MEAT, and SONG;

- Two connections expressions: "HAVE" and "PROVIDES A MEETING BETWEEN";

- Five propositions 1) "BARBECUE HAVE MEAT" 2) "BARBECUE HAVE SONG" 3) "BARBECUE HAVE CRUMBS" 4) "BARBECUE PROVIDES A MEETING BETWEEN FAMILY" 5) BARBECUE PROVIDES A MEETING BETWEEN FRIENDS".

Example 2:

In this example, we made a conceptual map about Conceptual Map.

In it, briefly and clearly, it exposes what we saw.

In this way, as an exercise, identify the concepts, terms of connection, and propositions of example 2.

Finally, we will list some steps so that you can create your concept maps.

1) Choose a theme;

2) List all the concepts that appear in your mind;

3) Separate the concepts into two blocks, one containing the more general and the other containing the more specific;

4) Only after this procedure, do you link the concepts, informing the connections expressions.

5) By connecting all the concepts and filling in all the connections expressions, your conceptual map will be ready.

I do not advise you to create your conceptual maps with paper and pen. For the creation of a conceptual map, I recommend the free tool called CmapTools. Below I teach you to step by step how to download it.

1) Enter in the site: https://cmap.ihmc.us/cmaptools/cmaptools-download/

2) Put your email address, target os and prove you are not a spambot

3) Choose the version for your personal computer.

4) Install and start.

In conclusion, for most comprehension of the scrum, I recommend, after each class, that you make your conceptual map of the subject studied. After finishing the course, compare all your conceptual maps done and see your progress. Also, use them to FIX and REVIEW. Good lucky.