

Concept Mapping

- What is a concept map?
- What are the features of a concept map?
- How do you construct a concept map?

What is a Concept Map?

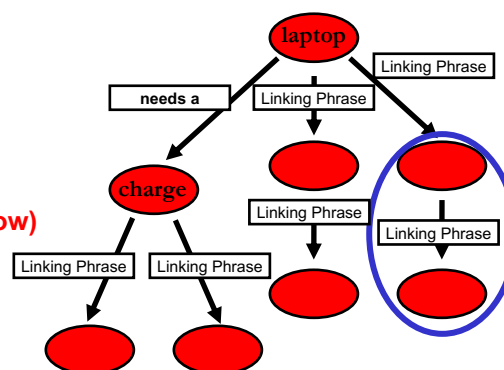
A Concept Map Includes:

Nodes
(terms or concepts)

Linking lines
(usually with a unidirectional arrow)

Linking phrases

Propositions



Short Assignment

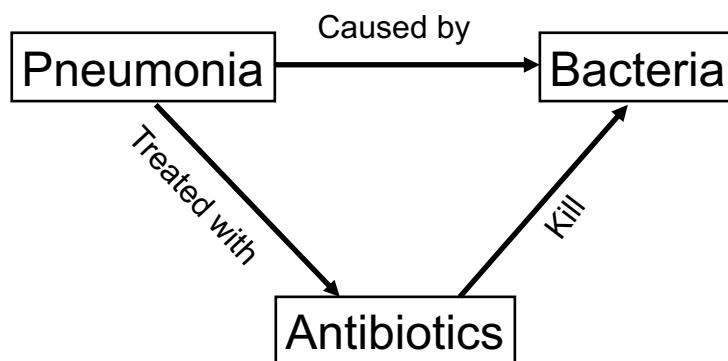
Arrange the following three terms
and connect them with arrows and
linking phrases

Bacteria

Pneumonia

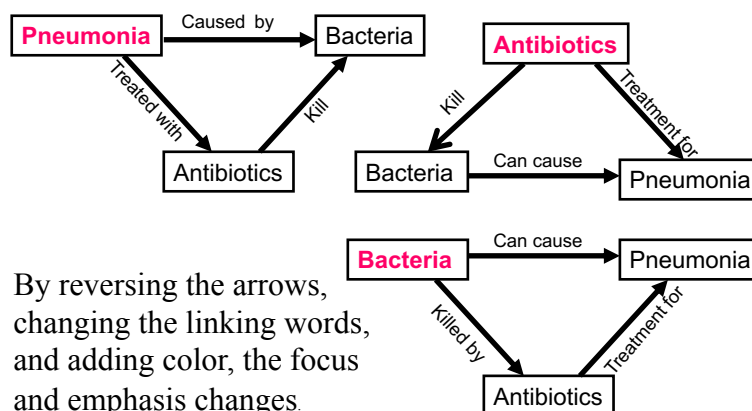
Antibiotics

A Mini Concept Map

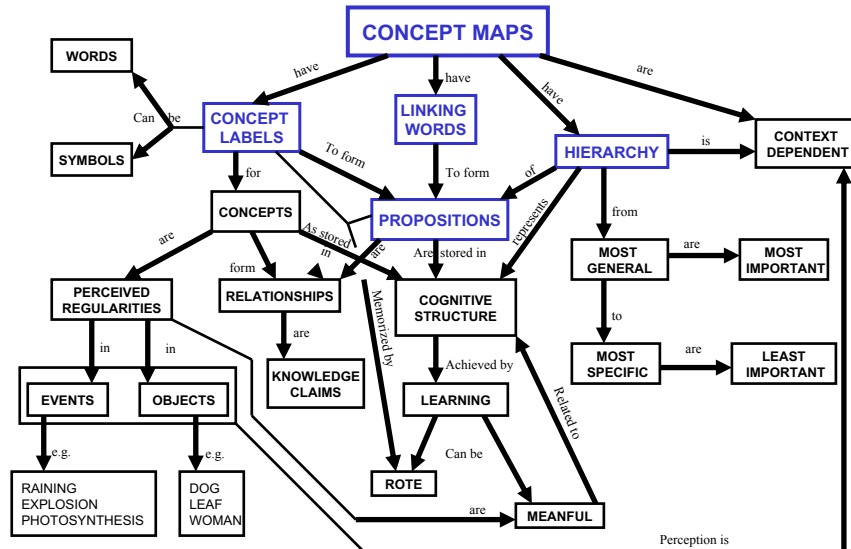


Construct a Concept Map that summarizes the significance of the articles you are studying and can be useful to the rest of the class.

Variations on a Theme



Concept Map Showing Key Concepts in Concept Mapping



Stages in the Construction of a Concept Map

- Brainstorming Stage
- Organizing Stage
- Layout Stage
- Linking Stage
- Revising Stage
- Finalizing Stage

Brainstorming Stage

- List any and all terms and concepts associated with the topic of interest.
- Write them on Post It® Notes, one word or phrase per note.
- Don't worry about redundancy, relative importance, or relationships at this point.
- The objective is to generate the largest possible list.

Brainstorming Stage



Organizing Stage

- Spread concepts on a table or blackboard so that all can be read easily.
- Create groups and sub-groups of related items. Try to group items to emphasize hierarchies.
- Identify terms that represent higher categories and add them.
- Feel free to rearrange items and introduce new items omitted initially.
- Some concepts will fall into multiple groupings. This will become important in the linking stage.

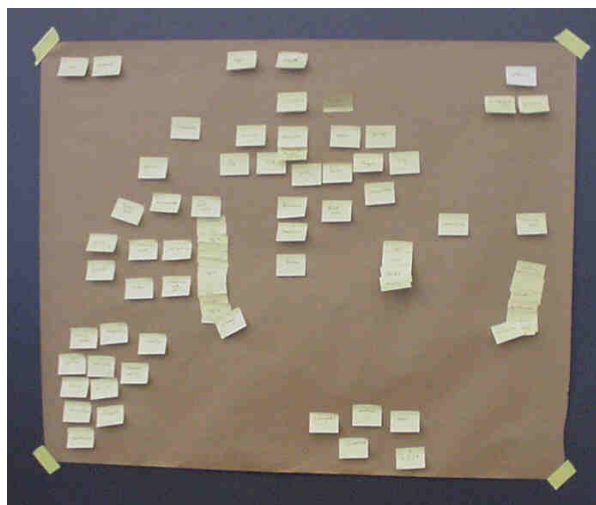
Organizing Stage



Layout Stage

- Arrange terms so that they represent your collective understanding of the interrelationships and connections among groupings.
- Use a consistent hierarchy in which the most important concepts are in the center or at the top.
- Within sub-grouping, place closely related items near to each other.
- Think in terms of connecting the items in a simple sentence that shows the relationship between them.
- Feel free to rearrange things at any time during this phase.
- Do not expect your layout to be like that of other groups.

Layout Stage



Linking Phase

- Use lines with arrows to connect and show the relationship between connected items.
- Write a word or short phrase by each arrow to specify the relationship.
- Many arrows can originate or terminate on particularly important concepts.

Revising Stage

- Carefully examine the draft concept map.
- Rearrange sections to emphasize organization and appearance.
- Remove or combine items to simplify.
- Consider adding color or different fonts.
- Discuss any aspects where opinions differ

Finalizing the Concept Map

- After your group has agreed on an arrangement of items that conveys your understanding, convert the concept map into a permanent form that others can view and discuss.
- Be creative *in a constructive way* through the use of colors, fonts, shapes.

Evaluating Concept Maps

- **Accuracy and Thoroughness.** Are the concepts and relationships correct? Are important concepts missing? Are misconceptions apparent?
- **Organization.** Is the concept map laid out in a way that higher order relationships are apparent and easy to follow? Does it have a title?
- **Appearance.** Is the assignment done with care showing attention to details such as spelling and penmanship? Is it neat and orderly or is it chaotic and messy?
- **Creativity.** Are there unusual elements that aid communication or stimulate interest without being distracting?