Topic 2.1: Concept Maps

Concept mapping is a form of graphic organization that helps students to organize information in a meaningful way. Concept maps demand more time, evaluation of material, and creativity than other graphic organizers. However, they are more likely to accurately capture the students' prior knowledge and demonstrate how they relate to their newly acquired knowledge.

History of Concept Maps

Concept mapping was developed during the constructivism learning movement of the 1970's at Cornell University by Joseph Novak. It was a method that supported students in actively constructing their own knowledge concerning a topic by capturing what they knew about a topic before and after instruction.

Notes on the History of Concept Mapping:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Advantages of Concept Mapping

- Represents students' constructed knowledge
- Supports meaningful learning
- Encourages the transfer of knowledge into long-term memory.
- Advances students' knowledge by allowing them to make connections between concepts while reading.

Notes on the Advantages of Concept Mapping:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Steps to Designing a Concept Map

      Step 1: Formulate the question and identify concepts

      Step 2: Organize the most general concepts towards the top of the map.

      Step 3: Identify sub-concepts to organize under general concepts.

      Step 4: Define the relationships between concepts.

      Step 5: Revise the map's structure (add, remove, reorganize concepts.)

      Step 6: Identify cross references between concepts in various regions of the map and link them together.

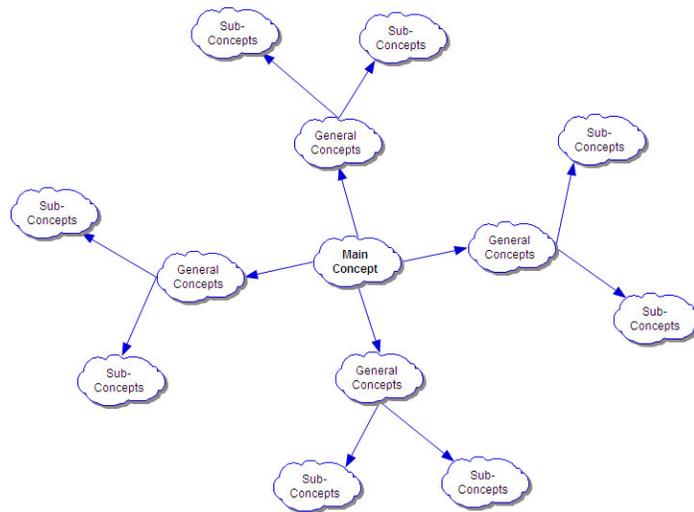*Notes on the Steps of Designing a Concept Map:*

_____

_____

_____

_____

Types of Concept Maps

Concept maps come in many shapes and forms. Below you will find some samples of the most common types of concept maps:

1. Spider Concept Map

The spider concept map organizes concepts by placing the central theme in the middle of the map and arranging sub-concepts outwardly around the center of the map.

Spider Concept Map Created in Inspiration 8.0

Notes:

_____

_____