

What is a mind map?

- A mind map is a **visual representation of ideas** and their relationships.
- It can help you **explore a topic** with which you are unfamiliar, **organize your thoughts** on a topic, and **draw connections** between ideas.
- This handout is an example - it's a mind map about mind mapping!

When is a mind
map useful?

**Mind
Mapping**

How do I create a
mind map?

- Since a mind map shows **how ideas are related to each other**, they can help you **explore a new topic**. Like when writing a research paper!
- Use a mind map to **write down all of the questions** you have **about your topic** before you start looking for information.
- Use those questions to **guide your search for more information** and to identify keywords that would make good search terms.
- As desired, **expand and revise** your mind map with new information and connections as you search.

- There are no rules! Use any colors, shapes, or designs.
- Just place the main idea in the center of the mind map.
- All other ideas or questions will radiate out from the main.

Try it! There is a blank mind map on the second page of this handout.

1. Place your research question or topic in the center.
2. In the surrounding bubbles, write in questions you may have or ideas associated with your main idea.
3. Beside the bubbles, jot down information you find that answers your question or clarifies an idea.

