What are Thinking Maps®?

Thinking Maps® are eight visual-verbal learning tools, each based on a fundamental thinking process and used together as a set of tools for showing relationships.

Thinking Maps® give you and your teachers a common language for meaningful learning.

The consistency and flexibility of each of the Thinking Maps® promotes:

✶ student-centered and cooperative learning
� concept development, reflective thinking
✶ creativity
✶ clarity of communication
✶ continuous cognitive development

You will construct knowledge, much like carpenters working together using a common set of tools to build a new structure.

Thinking Maps® can help you become independent, reflective, life-long problem-solvers and learners.

On the next pages, the eight Thinking Maps® are shown with the description of the thinking process involved, and examples of when each would be used.
Examples of the 8 Thinking Maps® follow.
Circle Map
What if you wanted to brainstorm ideas about probability? What is your frame of reference about probability? In other words, what concrete examples do you know that reflect the concept of probability? The Circle Map can be used for this purpose.

Bubble Map
What if you wanted to describe the qualities of animals? Use the Bubble Map for descriptions of qualities and characteristics.
Double Bubble

Use a Double Bubble map to compare and contrast the games of team handball and floor hockey. The Double Bubble examines similar and different qualities.
**Tree Map**

What if you wanted to examine and define the various types of measurements? The Tree Map can be used for classification.
Brace Map

The parts of a ‘monster’ in Spanish can be identified by using the Brace Map. A Brace Map is used to show the component parts of a physical whole.
**Flow Map**

The Flow Map is used to show sequencing. Any process that can be described by steps such as 1st, 2nd, & 3rd could benefit from this type of map. For example, a Flow Map could show the correct process for reading a textbook.

**BEFORE**
- Have a purpose for reading
- Read questions at the end of the chapter
- Change the chapter title and headings to questions
- Look at the vocabulary
- Study visuals

**DURING**
- Read to answer the pre-reading questions
- Take notes to answer questions
- Summarize sections as you go
- Answer chapter questions

**AFTER**
- Summarize main ideas
- Review questions, visuals, and vocabulary
- Integrate and relate to course material
Flow Map

This is another example of a Flow Map which shows the steps and stages for planning a paper, a research project, a presentation, or Web site.

Stage 1: Prewriting = Thinking on paper
- Step 1: identify the purpose of your paper
- Step 2: identify your audience
- Step 3: choose and limit your topic
- Step 4: gather and select material
- Step 5: write a thesis statement
- Step 6: organize or create a plan

Stage 2: Composing
- Step 7: write ideas on paper as a 'work in progress'

Stage 3: Revision
- Step 8: re-read your paper from a reader's point of view
  * clear focus
  * does it flow
  * enough information
  * clear working
  * quality writing

Stage 4: Editing and proofreading
- Step 9: check for errors and make corrections
  * sentence structure
  * grammar
  * spelling
  * punctuation
Multi-flow Map

A Multi-flow Map could be used to look at the causes and effects of conflicts between Europeans and North Americans.

Bridge Map

The Bridge Map illustrates analogies. The following map shows the major resources of various states. The analogies in this map would read as follows: Coal is to Illinois as oil is to Texas. Oil is to Texas as fertile soil is to Georgia. Can you "read" the rest of them?