

Introduction

What is text mapping?

The term text mapping describes one way of interacting with a text or said differently, analysing the structure of the text.

You text map by:

- Identifying parts of the text.
- Noting their relation to the whole text and to each other.
- Selecting and applying a method of recording your insight.

Advantages of text mapping

- Text mapping increases **understanding**.
- It helps you to **remember** what you have studied.
- Makes **revision** easy.
- Helps develop **your own particular strength** as a student.
- Promotes your **critical ability**.
- Text mapping is **easier to develop**

Types of the text mapping techniques

These are the different types of text mapping techniques, namely:

- **Underlining or highlighting**-when applying this text mapping strategy, you need to underline or highlight the **main ideas only**, using different **colors** for specific purposes.
- **Tree diagram**-also called an **organogram**. It is presented in **hierarchical order** to show a **relationship** between concepts, things or people.
- **Flow chart**-a *linear flow chart* always uses **straight lines**, to show **process** that starts at **one point** and **end at another point**. Whereas, a *circular flow chart* uses **curved lines**, linked into a **circle** to show an **ongoing process**.
- **Table**-as a text mapping strategy is useful in mapping a text that **compares** and **contrasts two** or **more aspects** of a topic. It can be used to **record results**, **display statistics** or **summaries information**.
- **Segmenting and labelling**-this strategy could be applied by **speed-read** the text, identify the **main ideas** in a paragraph, write the identified **key words** or **phrases** in the margin, and then summarize the text paragraph and incorporating the identified key words or phrases.
- **Mind map**-is “the whole-brain alternative to linear thinking. It reaches out in all directions and catches thought from any angle” (Buzan, 2005).
-

There are three parts to a mind map, namely:

1. A colourful central image that symbolizes the main topic.
2. Lines that connect the main themes of the topic to the central image.
3. More lines that connect key words or key images that represent associated sub-themes.

Text mapping steps

You could text map by following these three-step processes:

Step 1: Identify features that are relevant to your purpose in a text.

Step 2: Mark those identified features

Noting the features in a text without marking them is not sufficient. You can mark headings; vocabulary words; questions or sub-sections by highlighting, circling or underlining. This could be done by using various colors.

Step 3: Mark their areal extent. This will enable you as a student to see which sections are longer.

Reference lists

Buzan, T. 2005. Mind maps for kids max your memory and concentration.

www.textmapping.org/