Mapping Your Way to Success

Mind mapping is a highly effective way of getting information in and out of your brain. Mind mapping is a creative and logical means of note-taking and note-making that literally "maps out" your ideas.

All mind maps have some things in common. They have a natural organizational structure that radiates from the center and they use lines, symbols, words, color and images according to simple, brain-friendly concepts. Mind mapping converts a long list of monotonous information into a colorful, memorable and highly organized diagram that works in line with your brain's natural way of doing things. Here's an example:

Mind/concept mapping can be done for several purposes:

- To generate ideas (brain storming, etc.);
- To design a complex structure (long texts, hypermedia, web sites, etc.);
- To communicate complex ideas;
- To aid learning by explicitly integrating new and old knowledge;
- To assess understanding or diagnose misunderstanding.

“If you want to be smart then read, a lot.”

-BILL GATES, Founder of Microsoft
"I enjoyed the class discussions. I normally do not read on a regular basis so I am surprised that I was able to finish reading two books in a semester. This class inspired me to start my summer reading."

"I enjoyed learning about the different types of skills and attitudes one must obtain in order to become a critical thinker. This helped me acknowledge what skills I have and what I still need to work on so that I can become a critical thinker."

"I enjoyed that the teacher connected the lessons with real-world application. It made the class useful and more engaging."

"I enjoyed that we constantly worked to improve and were able to see the results of our efforts each week."

"I enjoyed the class because the material was well-organized, straight forward, and the instructor delivered the pedagogy in a refreshing, upbeat manner."

"I really enjoyed this class. It gives you the opportunity to use your brain in a way that I found beneficial. I would definitely recommend it to other students."

"The ability to span the golden nuggets of information through reading is a valuable skill every college student should learn."

"I personally enjoyed the group activities. This allowed for critical thinking within groups. I was able to hear others opinions on interesting topics, which in turn opened my eyes to new ideas."

"I mostly enjoyed the reading that I did during this class. I liked the novel that I read. As English language is my second language, I enjoyed the vocabulary words that I learned through the class. I benefited a lot from the reading techniques and the organization of the essays."

"I learned a lot of things, not only about reading, I also learned a lot that related to writing, thinking & studying."

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**Want to Read a Life Changing Book?**

- **Ordinary People**, Judith Guest
- **American Psycho**, Bret Easton Ellis
- **The Shawshank Redemption**, Stephen King
- **The Color Purple**, Alice Walker
- **In Cold Blood**, Truman Capote
- **A Dog’s Purpose**, Bruce Cameron
- **Outliers**, Malcolm Gladwell
- **Steve Jobs**, Walter Isaacson
- **Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History**, Laurel Thatcher Ulrich
- **The Alchemist**, Paulo Coehlo
- **$#*! My Dad Says**, Justin Halpern
- **A Short History of Nearly Everything**, Bill Bryson

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**Resources you’ll find in the Academic Reading Center:**

*Professors dedicated to improving all facets of your reading and learning with special focus points on study skills, note-taking, test taking, and time management.*

*Textual materials for all reading levels such as dictionaries, vocabulary study guides, test prep guides, a student library, plus a myriad of other resources.*

*Computer software that will enhance your reading fluency, speed, vocabulary, & comprehension.*

*Reading materials that can be adapted to your course syllabi in nearly any subject.*