Concept Mapping: Overview

Goals of Concept Maps:
- Organize your information
- Verify that you are learning the correct relationships between information
- Review what you are learning
- Improve reading by providing a guiding question or focus
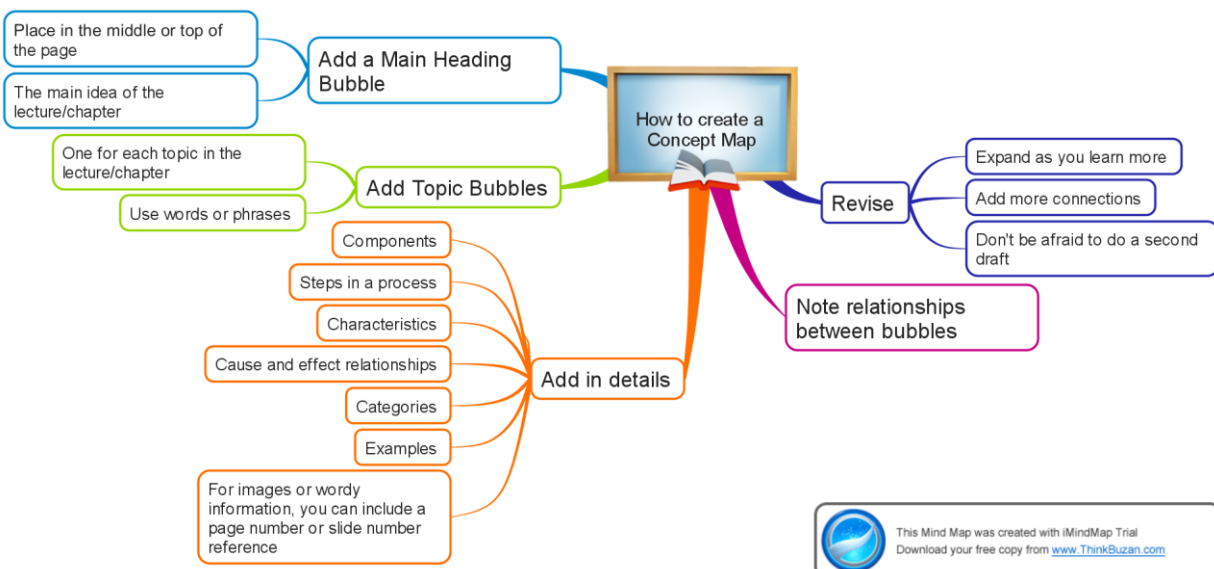
Helpful Hints:
- Focus on the information, not making the map "perfect". You may need several drafts as you continue to add details.
- Use color and/or different shapes to show different topics or levels of relationships
- Always look for connections between information.

How to create a concept map:
- Make a list of concepts from the lecture, ranking each from the most general to the most specific.
- Start each map at the center of the top of the page with the most general concept, which will usually be the primary topic of the lecture.
- Below it, place the second-most important topic.
- Circle these two concepts and link them with a solid line.
- Label the line with a linking phrase that briefly explains how the concepts connect.
- Work your way down the page, adding increasingly specific concepts and looking for crosslinks, which should be drawn with dashed lines.
- Add details and examples.
- If needed, do a second version of the map in which you add formerly unnoticed crosslinks and organize the map so it flows as logically and as clearly as possible.
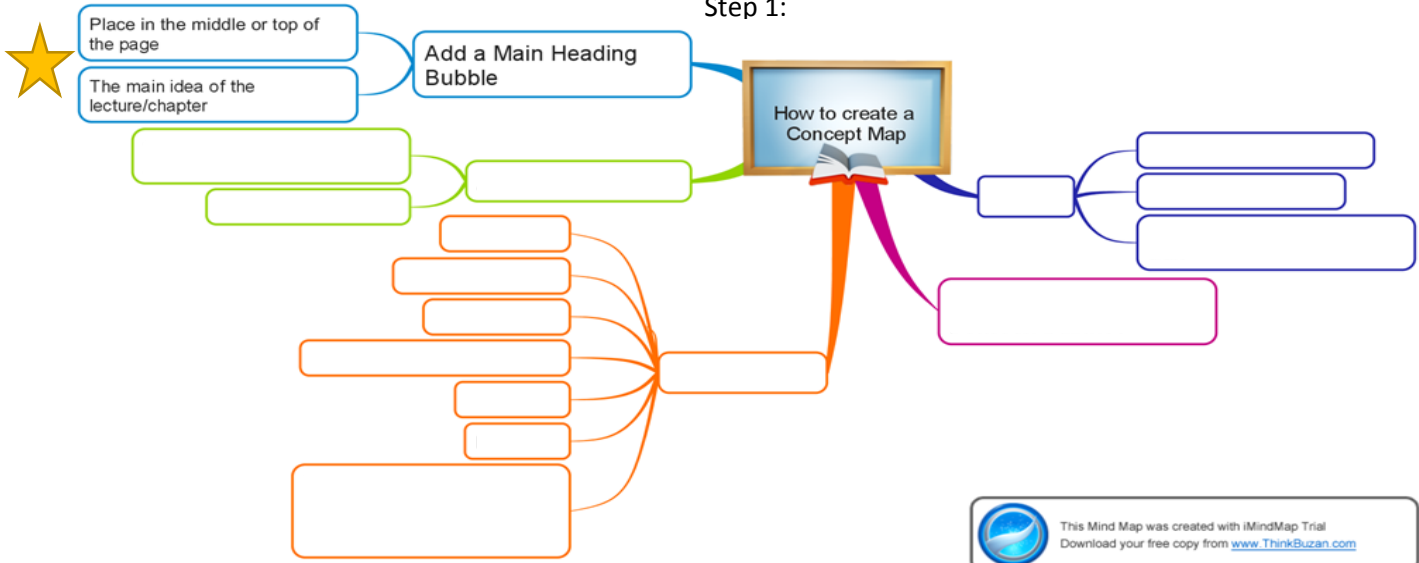
Note: Each concept should appear only once on a specific concept map. Repeating concepts can indicate that you missed an important conceptual relationship.

(Adapted from the Baylor University Academic Support Programs Mentor Manual)
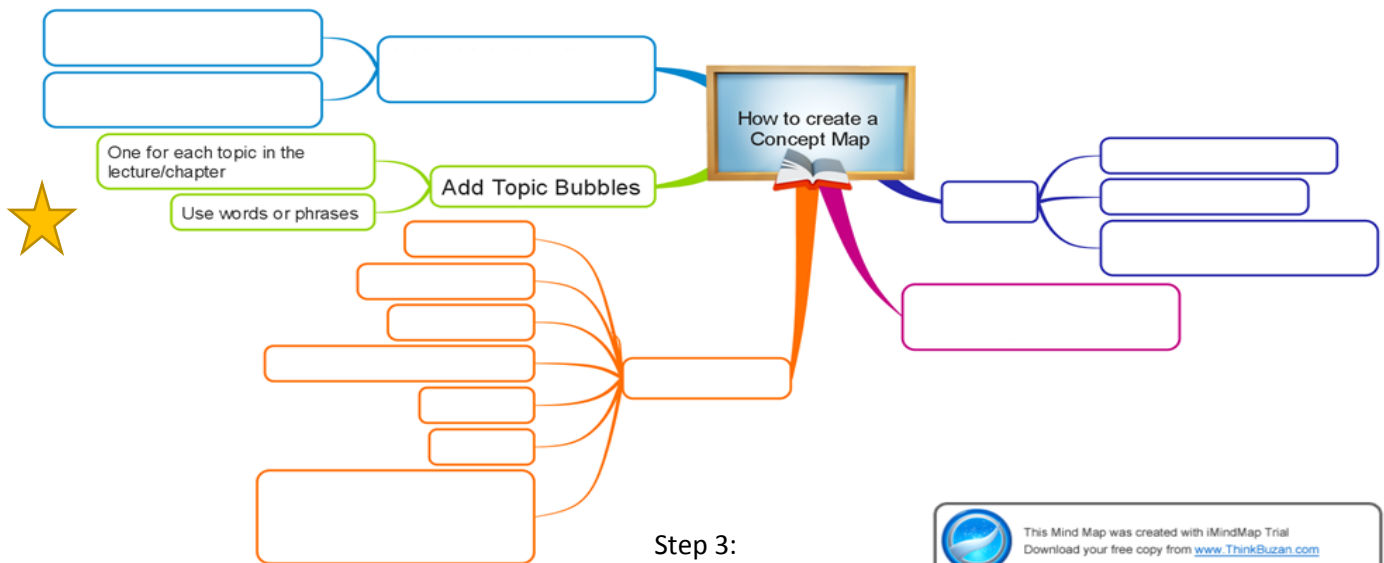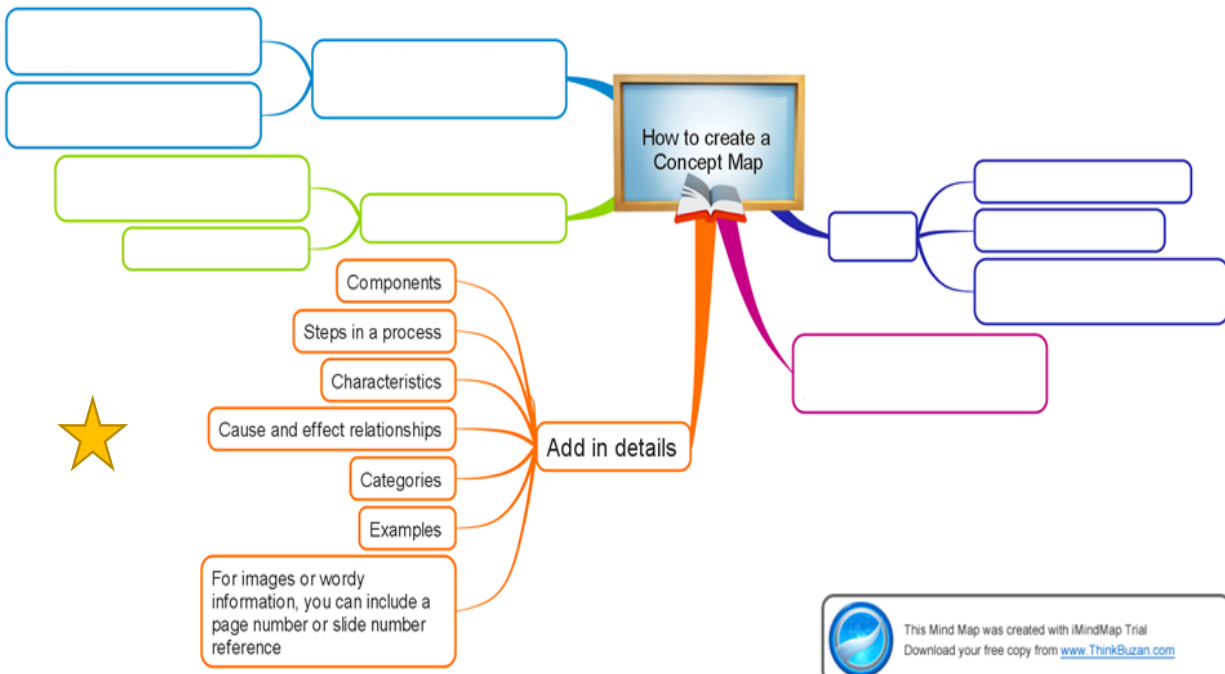

Image from Texas A & M Health Science Center Office of Academic Support Services
(http://medicine.tamhsc.edu/academic-support/active-learning-techniques/concept-maps.html)

Concept Mapping: Step-by-Step Guide

Step 1:

Place in the middle or top of the page

The main idea of the lecture/chapter

Add a Main Heading Bubble

How to create a Concept Map

Step 2:

One for each topic in the lecture/chapter

Use words or phrases

Add Topic Bubbles

How to create a Concept Map

Step 3:

How to create a Concept Map

Components

Steps in a process

Characteristics

Cause and effect relationships

Categories

Examples

For images or wordy information, you can include a page number or slide number reference

Add in details

Step 4:

How to create a
Concept Map

Note relationships
between bubbles

Step 5:

How to create a
Concept Map

Revise

Expand as you learn more

Add more connections

Don't be afraid to do a second
draft
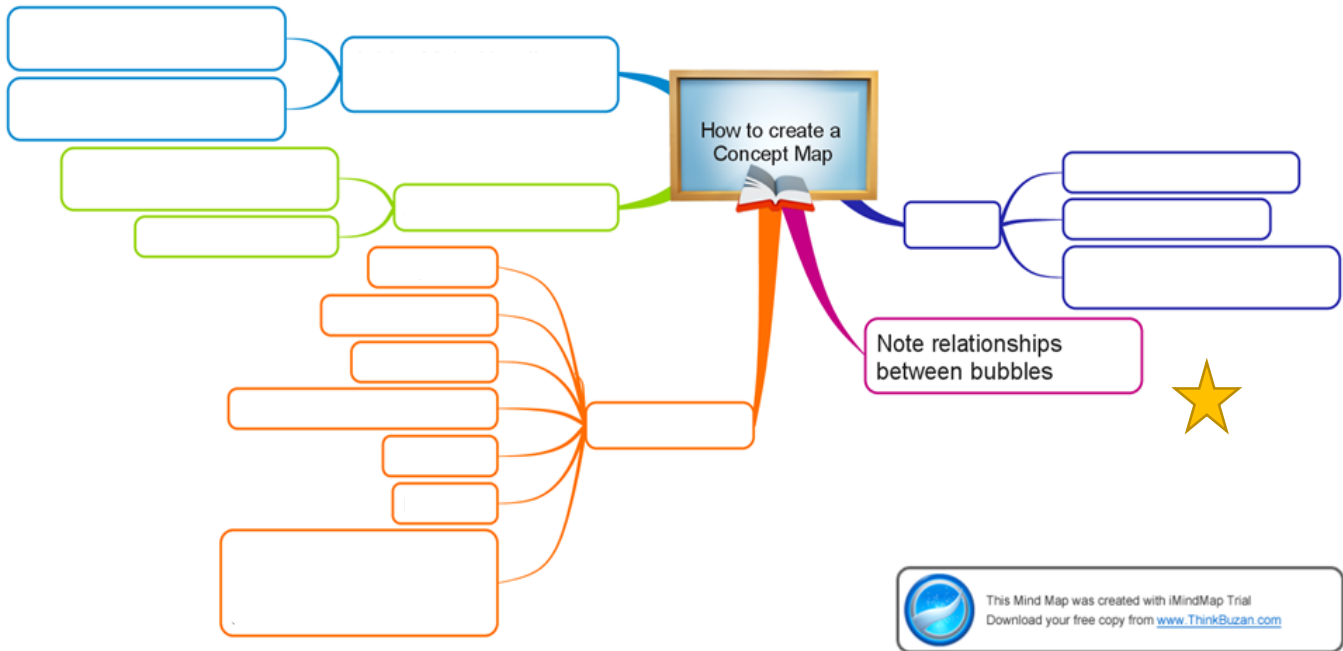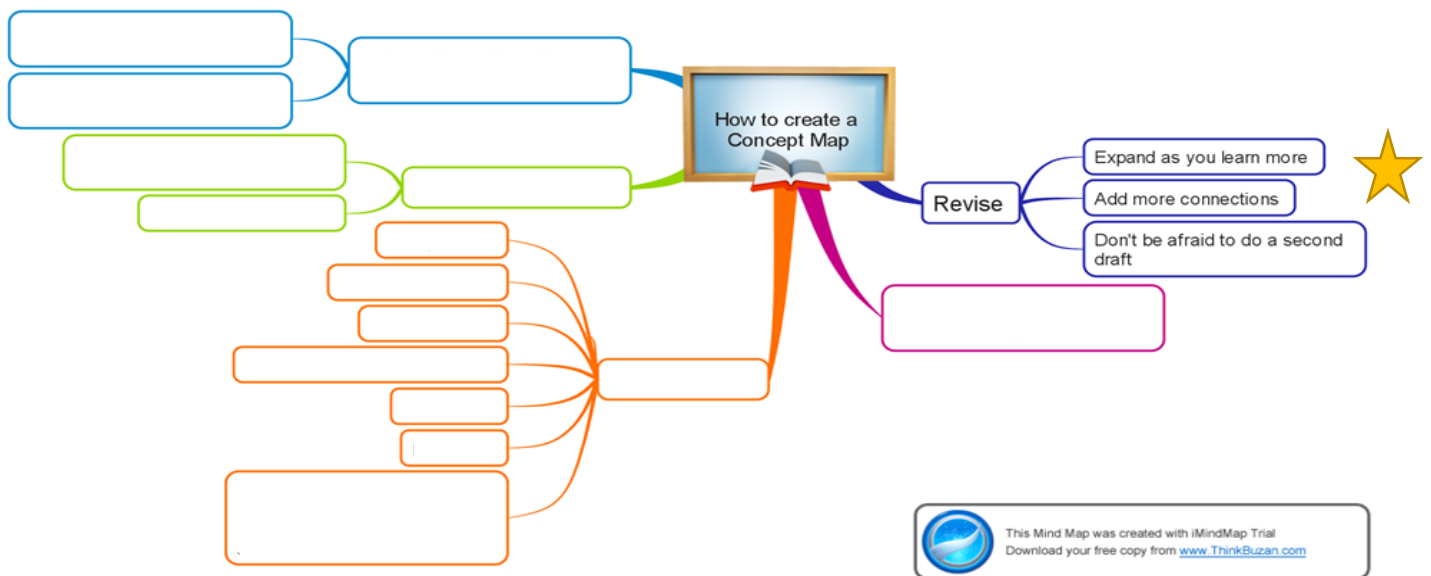
Concept Mapping: Additional Resources

Concept Maps
http://medicine.tamhsc.edu/academic-support/active-learning-techniques/concept-maps.html

Concept Mapping in the Higher Education Classroom:
https://prezi.com/ynod9qczywmt/concept-mapping-in-the-higher-education-classroom/

What is a Concept Map?:
https://www.lucidchart.com/pages/what-is-a-concept-map

CMAP (Concept Mapping Software)
http://cmap.ihmc.us/