

Technology Instructions:

The following are a few suggested tools for creating a concept map. Click on any of the links below to review each suggested tool, but you can also use Word or PowerPoint.

- [Coggle](#) is a free mind-mapping web application. There is nothing to download, it is completely online! Create an account and then you can download or share the maps you create.
- [Mindmeister](#) is a free online mind mapping application. There is nothing to download, it is completely online! A fee is required for exporting to a pdf (approximately \$2.50 per month), but you can opt to take a screenshot for free.
- [Google Drawings](#) is a free, web-based diagramming software developed by Google. As a Doane student you have access to Google Drawings through your Doane email. To learn more about using Google Drawings, review [Using Google Drawings](#).

How to Build a Concept Map

Concept maps are typically hierarchical, with the subordinate concepts stemming from the main concept or idea. A concept map is unique in that it always allows change and new concepts to be added. The Rubber Sheet Analogy states that concept positions on a map can continuously change, while always maintaining the same relationship with the other ideas on the map.

Start with a main idea, topic, or issue to focus on. A helpful way to determine the context of your concept map is to choose a focus question—something that needs to be solved or a conclusion that needs to be reached. Once a topic or question is decided on, that will help with the hierarchical structure of the concept map.

Then determine the key concepts. Find the key concepts that connect and relate to your main idea and rank them; most general, inclusive concepts come first, then link to smaller, more specific concepts.

Finish by connecting concepts--creating linking phrases and words. Once the basic links between the concepts are created, add cross-links, which connect concepts in different areas of the map, to further illustrate the relationships and strengthen student's understanding and knowledge on the topic. See example below.

