



# Curriculum Design Pattern

Global Learning by Design

**Name of pattern**

**Synopsis Mind Maps**

**Quick look**

Synopsis Mind Maps requires students to work in small groups to create a synopsis related to specific subject matter area using a mind mapping tool. The mind maps are shared either physically or digitally (forum, wiki).

**Rationale**

A synopsis is by its nature multi-dimensional and complex - the Synopsis Mind Maps activity enables small groups (5-8 students) to analyse one part or aspect of the course subject matter and to share this with other groups

**Learners/Context**

This is a small group activity (5-8 students) suitable for self-study, tutorial or lecture.

**Related patterns**

Group Graphic Organiser.

**Related category**

Group work, collaboration, academic skills, analysis, student-generated content.

**Alignment**

Provides students with the opportunity to develop their research and analytical skills and to deconstruct complex information.

## Instructions/process

### Prior to semester:

1. Determine whether activity will be conducted as an individual or group task (5-8 in a group)
2. Allocate an aspect of the course or a chapter/section of a text for students to read in order for them to create a synopsis mind map.

### In class:

3. Explain to students the value of a synopsis and mapping the synopsis to effectively research/analyse the subject matter. Ask students to refer to the WikiHow on writing an academic synopsis (see Resources/Technology).
4. Ask students to refer to how to create a mind map (see Resources/Technology)
5. Have students create a rough draft of their mind map in class. Provide students with a large sheet of blank paper to plan their content.  
**Note:** If this is a group activity, consider providing post-it notes to allow students to process ideas in a more flexible way (discuss, negotiate, clarify, accept or reject ideas).
6. Students are to complete the rough draft mapping exercise in 15 minutes.
7. Recall the class and discuss the mind mapping process and how ideas were organised.
8. Provide students with a list of mind mapping tools (see Resources/Technology) and have students select a tool.
9. Advise students of the deadline for their mind maps and how/when the mind maps will be shared with the whole class (e.g. physical presentation in the classroom, forum, wiki).

### Extension:

- **Paper Round:** Ask students to begin their mind map and after five minutes, student/s to pass their mind map to another individual/group. The students then complete the mind map and discuss the process, variations and approaches. The discussion will help students clarify aspects of the synopsis.
- **Poster Presentation:** Create an exhibition and ask students to present their mind map in a physical space. The conversion from an online to a physical format allows students time to reflect and review the main concepts of the subject matter and the synopsis.

- **Digital Presentations:** The mind maps can be shared on a forum or wiki. Ask students to write a brief description of the process and a brief evaluation of the mind mapping tool used.

## Conditions

Knowledge of and access to online mind mapping tools via a computer or tablet.

## Resources/Technology

WikiHow - How to Write a Synopsis:

(<http://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Synopsis>)

RMIT mind mapping tutorial and how to information:

(<https://emedia.rmit.edu.au/learninglab/content/mind-mapping>)

The basics of mind mapping:

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLWV0XN7K1g>)

Mind mapping tools:

- Five Best Mind Mapping Tools:  
(<http://lifehacker.com/five-best-mind-mapping-tools-476534555>)
- 'Organize Your Thoughts and Ideas With This List of the 15 Best Mind Mapping Tools':  
(<http://www.digitaltrends.com/computing/best-mind-mapping-tools/>)
- Bubbl.us (<https://bubbl.us>)

Mind mapping apps (There are a large number of iOS and Android apps available and some of these apps are free):

- iOS - (<http://appadvice.com/appguides/show/mind-mapping-apps>)
- Android - (<http://www.techrepublic.com/blog/tablets-in-the-enterprise/the-top-five-mind-mapping-apps-for-the-android-tablet>)