



CMAP TOOLS

Concept maps are graphical representations of how different concepts relate to each other to create meaning. It is tools used to organise and present knowledge. A concept map consists of individual concepts and linking words, which together create propositions. Cmap tools is free downloadable software that can be used to create electronic concept maps.

Here are some things to consider when contemplating the use of Cmap tools.

AFFORDANCES

- Cmap tools is compatible with Windows, OS X, iPads and Linux.
- It can be used as an assessment tool.
- You can link resources, images and web links to concepts.
- Cmaps can be exported in various formats for incorporation into other documents, or for sharing on various platforms.
- Electronic concept maps are easier to edit, update and collaborate on, than the paper version.
- Concept maps can be used to visually present module frameworks.
- It can be used to compare lecturers and teachers perspectives on certain topics to facilitate in-class or online discussions.
- It can be used to summarize arguments.
- Lecturers can use concept maps, instead of PowerPoint presentations for presenting certain topics.
- Students can create concept maps of specific content which can be made available to the rest of the class via SUNLearn, as an alternative to lecture slides.
- Students can make concept maps to show their prior knowledge of a topic, before it is further discussed in lectures.

CHALLENGES

- There is a learning curve to creating effective concept maps. Here is a link to some supporting documents to assist with overcoming this challenge:
<http://cmap.ihmc.us/docs/learn.php>
- You need to invest enough time to create useful concept maps.