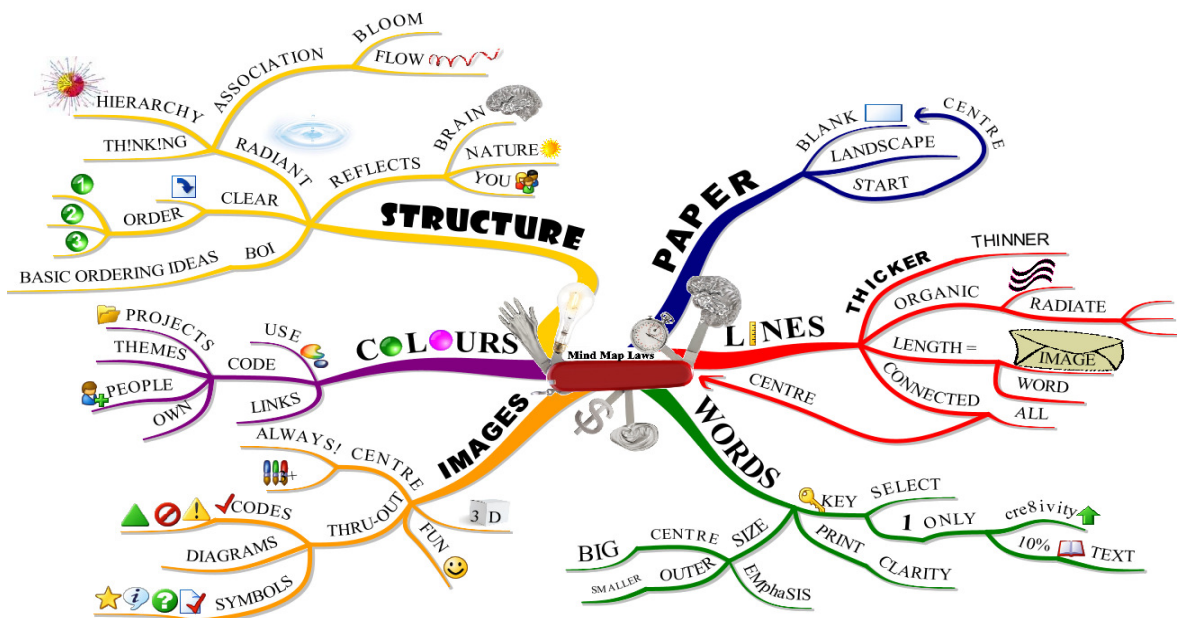


## Organise your mind: Mind-mapping

- One way to develop the structure of your writing is to create a **mind map**.
- Draw it and redraw it as you develop your ideas through reading, conversation and all the other forms of reception and creative action.

Tony Buzan, the mind map 'guru' recommends the following **7 steps to better thinking**:

1. Set your purpose/goal.
2. Start in the CENTRE of blank paper turned sideways.
3. Quickly sketch an IMAGE of your focus in the centre.
4. Use at least 3 COLOURS, for emphasis, structure, texture, creativity.
5. Draw curved lines, radiating from centre (thick to thin) CONNECTING main branches to central image & at each level.
6. Use 1 key word or image per line for more power and flexibility in thinking.
7. Use images throughout, as a picture paints a 1,000 words.



Source: [http://www.buzan.com.au/How\\_To\\_Mind\\_Map.pdf](http://www.buzan.com.au/How_To_Mind_Map.pdf)

## Activities for research students

We recommend that you use mind maps in the following ways:

1. Represent your research project in a mind map. This is not so simple, and can be done repeatedly!
2. Mind map notes from your readings. Mind maps support retention and retrieval.
3. Plan a chapter or a section of a chapter.
4. Make connections between your project and your exegesis e.g. a theme, a theory or modes of representation, etc.
5. Mind map arguments and rebuttals, claims and evidence, etc. This is a useful way to build a critical stance for the literature review.
6. Mind map tasks to identify priorities and timelines.
7. Your choice...

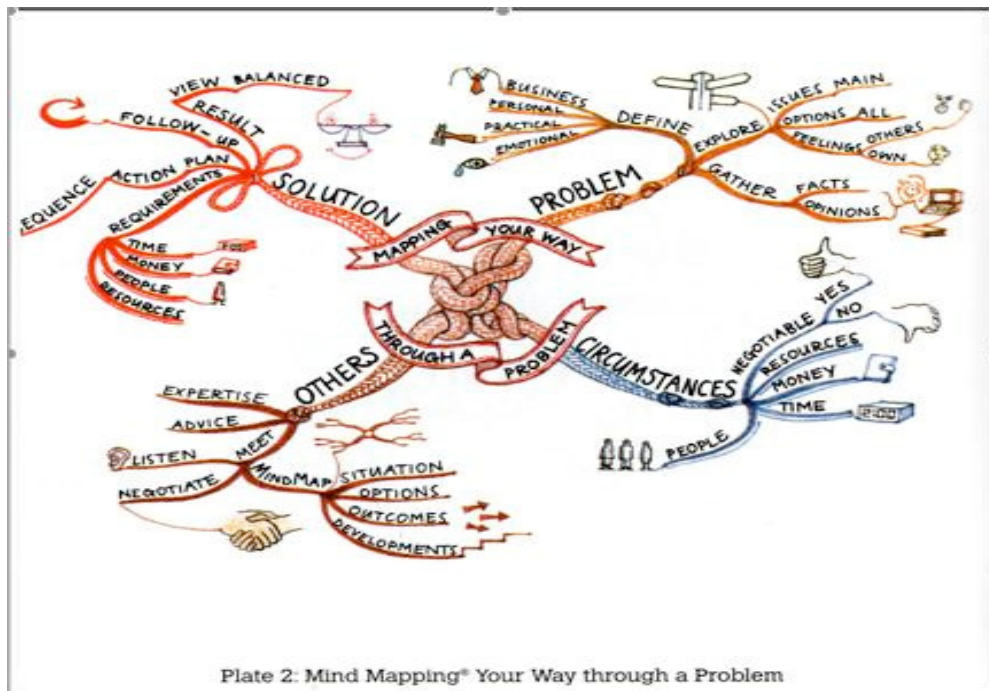


Plate 2: Mind Mapping® Your Way through a Problem

### Other websites:

[https://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/lsu/content/1\\_StudySkills/study\\_tuts/mindmapping\\_LL/index.html](https://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/lsu/content/1_StudySkills/study_tuts/mindmapping_LL/index.html)  
[http://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newISS\\_01.htm](http://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newISS_01.htm)  
<http://www.thinkbuzan.com/intl/>

### Mind mapping software:

Wikipedia has a list of free and proprietary software:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_concept\\_and\\_mind\\_mapping\\_software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_concept_and_mind_mapping_software)