What is a Concept Map?

Concept mapping is a way to arrange and manipulate material in a visual manner to assist your organization, comprehension, and retention of material. It can be used to brainstorm ideas and to organize concepts that you are trying to understand. Some students actually take notes in the form of concept maps, while others use it to preview a chapter before reading. Try using it in many different ways and for different purposes.

What is a Chapter Map?

These maps provide a quick means for determining the plan of a chapter. They show relationships among concepts and they express patterns of thought. It doesn’t matter how you design a map; your brain is making more connections every time you review or add new information.

Steps in Constructing a Chapter Map:

- Turn a sheet of paper horizontally or use a large piece of paper
- Write the first major heading at the top, adding subheadings and supporting details below
- As you add information, show the relationship and purpose within the text or novel
- Continue the pattern until you come to the next major heading
- Note any foreshadowing event or changes in the pattern of information
- Repeat the process until the end of the chapter

Chapter Map Example:

Adapted from http://www.cas.lsu.edu/