

11. MIND MAPPING

Approx. duration: 30-45 min
Groups of: 4-6
Competencies involved: S, L, W
Level: All

Required Material

·Whiteboard and
marker or large piece of paper/cardboard
·Laptop (optional)

Activity Description

Mind maps can be used to support multiple activities such as grammar revision, literary analysis, reading comprehension, essay planning, etc. They “[...] provide an opportunity for students to be active learners by acquiring data, processing information, organizing details and constructing knowledge by themselves”, and help students [...] improve [their] skills such as creative and critical thinking, collaborative and organizational skills, alongside their English-language skills”. [1]



Once the teacher has selected the context in which the students will collectively be creating a mind map, they can give them a quick demonstration of the expected results. Next, the students designate a note-taker and start the brainstorming session. It's important to give them a time limit. Once all of the mind maps are complete, the students should visit a neighboring team to give them feedback, and vice versa.

The recap activity can be a short presentation of each mind map to the class by a team representative, and a collective vote to decide which mind map is the most interesting, concise or clear. This activity is ideal for an active classroom equipped with whiteboards but can be achieved using a large piece of paper or cardboard.

Preparation

TEACHER

- Topic choice
- Pre-activity/research homework communication
- Evaluation grid preparation (if applicable)
- Assignment explanation including an example

STUDENTS

- Preliminary research (if applicable)

Workflow

TEACHER

1. Gives the activity instructions.
2. Walks around the classroom to verify the students' progress.
3. Asks students to go see other teams' mind maps (optional).
4. Proceeds to a collective recap.

STUDENTS

1. Decide on one or multiple note-takers.
2. Create a mind map.
3. Review other teams' mind maps (optional).
4. Improve the mind map based on the recap.
5. Share their work with the class.

Evaluation options

TEACHER

- Assessment using a simple evaluation grid that has previously been shared with the students

STUDENT

- Formative assessment of other students' mind maps using the provided grid

Tips

- It's important to give the students a time limit for each task.
- Familiarize the students with the virtual tool (if you are using one) before you start the activity.

