Mapping, reading, and discussing articles and documentaries

IN5010/IN9010 - Maja van der Velden – 2026

1. Concept mapping
Canas, A. J., & Novak, J. D. (2009). What is a Concept Map? *Cmap*. https://cmap.ihmc.us/docs/conceptmap.php (see also links in Introduction)

Creately. (2018). The Ultimate Concept Map Tutorial. *Thousand Words by Creately*. https://medium.com/thousand-words-by-creately/the-ultimate-concept-map-tutorial-9aa5a7b459c6

Novak, J.D. (2002). Key Ideas Underlying Concept Maps And How They Can Be Used - Part ½: https://youtu.be/oROg4mQkvZo

1.1 How-to guides:

Concept Maps 1: https://youtu.be/02Js_9-ek70
Concept Maps 2: https://youtu.be/TXU9UKajpVM

1.2 Digital tools:

CMap (free): https://cmap.ihmc.us/products/
Creately (limited free version): https://creately.com/plans/
Figma (limited free version): https://www.figma.com/pricing/
Miro (limited free version): https://miro.com/pricing/

2. Reading an article

2.1 Mindset

Each article you read in this course makes a specific point. Read the article to find new insights, independent if you agree or disagree with the author. Read the article with an open mindset (see also 3.1):

- What did I learn I didn't know before?
- What is my initial response to the article?
- Does the article inspire new ideas?
- What would be my contribution to the article's discussion, when we meet in class?

2.2 Critical reading[1]

Before or while reading the text:

- Why are you reading the text? What do you want to learn from it?

[1] Source: https://guides.lib.uoguelph.ca/StudyEffectively/ReadingCritically

- Who was the written for? Was it written within a specific context (ex. historical, cultural)?
- Who is the author(s)? What are their interests? Why did they do this research?
- What is the text's thesis or argument?
- What do you already know about the topic?
- Why has your lecturer chosen this text?
- How does this text relate to other texts in your course?
- How does this text relate to other texts on the same topic?

During or after reading the text:

- What frameworks or methods does the author use?
- How does the author justify the use of these frameworks or methods?
- What evidence or results are presented? How strong is the evidence?
- What are the author's conclusions? Are the conclusions reasonable based on the evidence presented?
- How does the text contribute new knowledge or perspectives on the topic?
- How will this text contribute to course discussions or assignments?
- How will this text contribute to your own knowledge?

Read with a pen! Or a highlighter or sticky notes. Use the paper pensum to underline, highlight, and write notes and ideas.

3. Discussions

3.1 Discussing an article

When discussing an article in class or in your group, we can use the following questions:

- What is the main point of the article?
- What is the main approach taken in the article?
- What assumptions does the article make?
- Did the examples/cases support the article in a good way? Can you come up with more examples?
- Are the conclusions of the article valid for everyone or in every situation?
- Who or what becomes invisible/excluded in the article?
- What do you like best about the article?
- What are the main shortcomings of the article?

3.2 Discussing a documentary

When discussing a documentary in class/in a group, we can use the following questions:

- What is the main point of the documentary?
- What is the main approach taken in the documentary?
- What assumptions does the documentary make?
- What kind of techniques does the documentary use to strengthen its point?

- Who or what becomes invisible/excluded in the documentary?
- What do you like best about the documentary?
- What are the main shortcomings of the documentary?

4. Other resources

Sung, J. (2024). How to remember everything you read: https://youtu.be/okHkUIW46ks?

Sung, J. (2025). You're Not Stupid: How to Fix Your Attention Span: https://youtu.be/JHQ7uieciiU

Keshov, S. (n.d.). How to Read a Paper: https://web.stanford.edu/class/ee384m/Handouts/HowtoReadPaper.pdf

UBCiSchool (2013) How to Read an Academic Paper (video): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKxm2HF_-ko