Mapping is a form of note taking that uses graphic organizers and diagrams to organize information. It is useful for those who learn best with visuals, and those who like to organize information neatly. Mapping may be difficult to use as a form of note taking during a lecture, but may be an excellent way to reorganize lecture information afterward. However, some students may find it useful in lectures with unanticipated organization. It creates a great visual that can be later used as a study guide. Students may even utilize this technique when combining notes from both lectures and text book readings. Information may be coded by shape or color so that the source of the information is known. This is very useful when studying and further clarification is needed – individuals will know where to look!

Mapping – how to:

- Start with identifying the main topic. This should be at either the top or center of your diagram.
- Next identify sub-topics or supporting main ideas. These should be located directly underneath or out from the center of your main topic.
- Continue downward or outward with supporting details until you have identified all relevant information.

Example:

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Main Topic

Sub-Topic 1

Sub-Topic 2

Sub-Topic 3

Supporting Detail

Taken from lecture
T

Taken from text book reading
T

Supporting Detail
T

Supporting Detail
T
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Please note that this form of note taking is also effective when brainstorming and organizing for a paper.

Adapted from...