

learning activity

SEMANTIC MAPPING



**Future9
Competency**



Learn with Purpose,
Read the World

**Time
Recommended**



30-60 Minutes

**Learning
Strategies**



Visualize, Recognize
Patterns, Retrieve

**Learning
Cycle Stage**



Investigate

DESCRIPTION

“Semantics” refers to the concepts or ideas conveyed by words. Semantic Mapping helps learners represent the relationships among words and concepts, and in doing so, they can reinforce the associations and categories that structure meaning. This activity helps learners organize, learn, remember, and extend their learning.

MATERIALS

-[Semantic Mapping Graphic](#)

-[Organizer \(optional\)](#)

-Index Cards

-Topic or text

PREPARATION

-Identify the text or topic for learners to map semantically.

-Create or locate several models of semantic maps about related (not identical) topics and texts.



1

Introduce Semantic Mapping

Display examples of semantic maps related to familiar texts or topics. Discuss how these visual representations help organize and reinforce relationships among ideas. Encourage learners to explore how the connections between words enhance their understanding of a topic. Highlight the importance of organizing information into categories or groups to aid in comprehension and memory retention.

2

Generate Index Card List (if using a topic)

Have learners compile a list of key terms, ideas, or concepts related to the topic. Instruct them to write each term on a separate index card, ensuring every card represents a distinct idea. Encourage learners to think broadly, including both central ideas and supporting concepts. Prompt them to consider how these terms might relate to one another.

3

Identify Notable Ideas (if using a text)

Instruct learners to read the text, focusing on identifying key ideas or statements. Have them note ideas on separate index cards. Model reading aloud a portion of the text and pointing out how to recognize significant lines, such as those that highlight main points, reveal new concepts, or support central themes. Provide guidance on distinguishing between important details and less relevant information.

4

Organize Relationships Among Terms

Instruct learners to analyze the relationships among the terms and ideas noted on their index cards. Guide them in grouping and organizing the cards to represent connections, such as similarities, differences, or associations between concepts. Suggest various types of relationships—opposites, synonyms, cause-effect, and hierarchical structures—to help guide their organization.

5

Create Visual Semantic Maps

Have learners transfer their organized ideas onto blank paper or a graphic organizer. Instruct them to arrange their terms in a way that reflects their relationships with one another, using lines or arrows to connect related terms. Encourage using visual elements such as size, color coding, or symbols to represent different connections, like stronger relationships or opposing concepts.

6

Present and Feedback

Have learners present their semantic maps, explaining the connections and relationships. Encourage them to highlight key insights made during the process. Provide time for peers to give constructive feedback, ask questions, or offer suggestions on improving the map's clarity or organization.

7

Reflect on Learning

Guide learners to reflect on learning:

- *What connections did you make with the map that you may not have noticed before?*
- *How does semantic mapping help you better understand and process compared to other study methods?*

