A Way to Navigate a Successful Learning: Learn Smarter, Not Harder

PRESENTED FOR LANGUAGES OF ASIA LEARN WORKSHOP SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2018

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Outline

- What is Language Training Like in FSI
- 2. What is Mind-Mapping Technique
- 3. How Do We Integrate Mind-Mapping
- 4. Hands-On Activity

The People We Work With



Who are our students?

Why do they study languages?

How do they use languages on the job?

The People We Work With



Note:

- ✓ SLS provides language and culture instruction to foreign affairs personnel and their eligible family members to prepare them for work and life overseas.
- ✓ Many positions at overseas missions require the use of language as a fundamental tool in carrying out the job. These are called Language Designated Positions (LDPs).
- ✓ Most of the students in SLS study foreign languages because it is required for the job they are assigned to.
- ✓ Our students have a clear mission -- to carry out the foreign policy of the President of the United States and to represent the political and economic interests of the United States around the world. For this, knowledge of the language and the culture of the country of their assignment is crucial.

Indonesian Section's Program

S/R 0

No Functional Proficiency

S/R 2

Limited Working proficiency

24 weeks

S/R3

General Professional proficiency

37 weeks

Who Are Our Students

An embassy generally houses six types of Foreign Service Officers (Cones):

- Consular Officers
- Economic Officers
- Management Officers
- Political Officers
- Public Diplomacy Officers
- Regional Security Officers

We prepare people for the job

Our Typical Classroom



Image: https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/z/animals-classroom-illustration-many-43864032.jpg

Our Typical Classroom

Note:

- ✓ Learners have different levels of motivation, different attitudes about teaching and learning, and different responses to specific classroom environments and instructional practices.
- ✓ The more thoroughly instructors understand the differences, the better chance they have of meeting the diverse learning needs of all of their learners.



Image: https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/z/animals-classroom-illustration-many-43864032.jpg

What is language training like in FSI?

Proficiency-Based

Intensive

Result-Oriented

Challenges

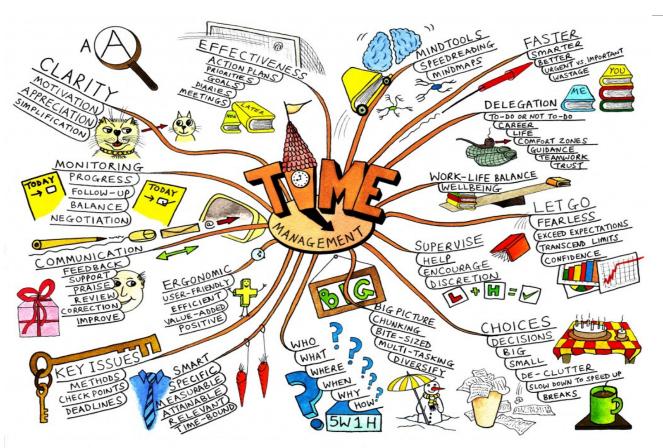
Students

- ✓ Learning Preferences
- ✓ Not Enough Time
- ✓ Classroom size
- **✓** EOT

Teachers

- ✓ Students are SMEs
- ✓ Tailored Instructions
- ✓ Teacher's background
- **✓** EOT

Why Mind-Mapping



"I have so many ideas buzzing around in my head. How else could I capture all these mini inspirations, quickly, without the simplicity of Mind Mapping?" - Dominic O'Brien, World Memory Champion

Credit: shutterstock image

Major Benefits of Mind Mapping

Not Losing Minds/Thought
Navigate Through Multiple
Ideas; Clear Cutter Ideas;
Enhance Memory & Retention;
Branch Out/Relate To Other
Ideas.

Will accommodate your Preferred Learning Style

Visual; Auditory, Kinesthetic, and/or Combinations



Frictionless Thought Organization

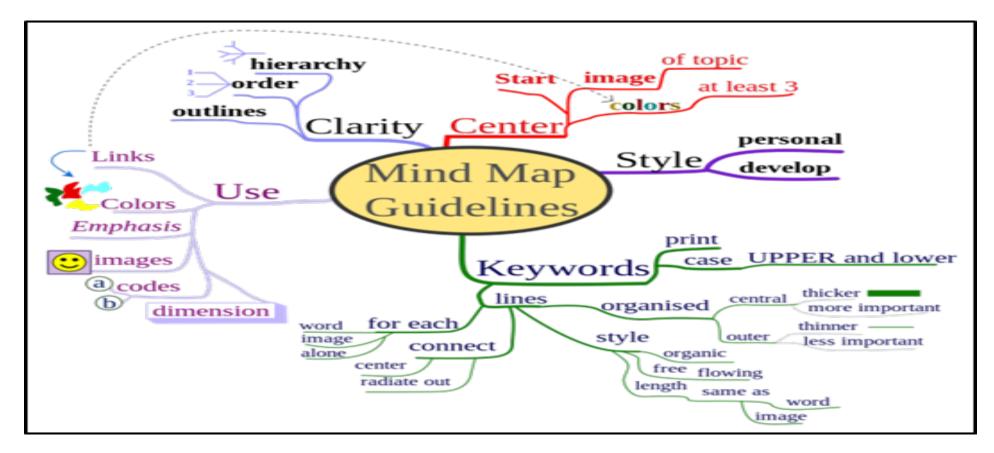
Improve: Fluency; Quantity and Continuity of speech; Focus; and Discourse

Whole Brain Thinking

Left Side: logical, sequential, rational, analytical, objective, look at parts
Right Side: random, intuitive, holistic, synthetizing, subjective, look at wholes

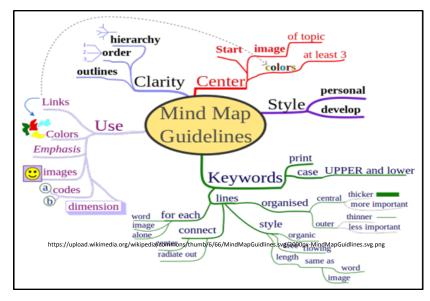
How to Get Started?

Essential characteristics of a Mind Map



How to Get Started?

Essential characteristics of a Mind Map



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/66/MindMapGuidlines.svg/2000px-MindMapGuidlines.svg.pr

Note:

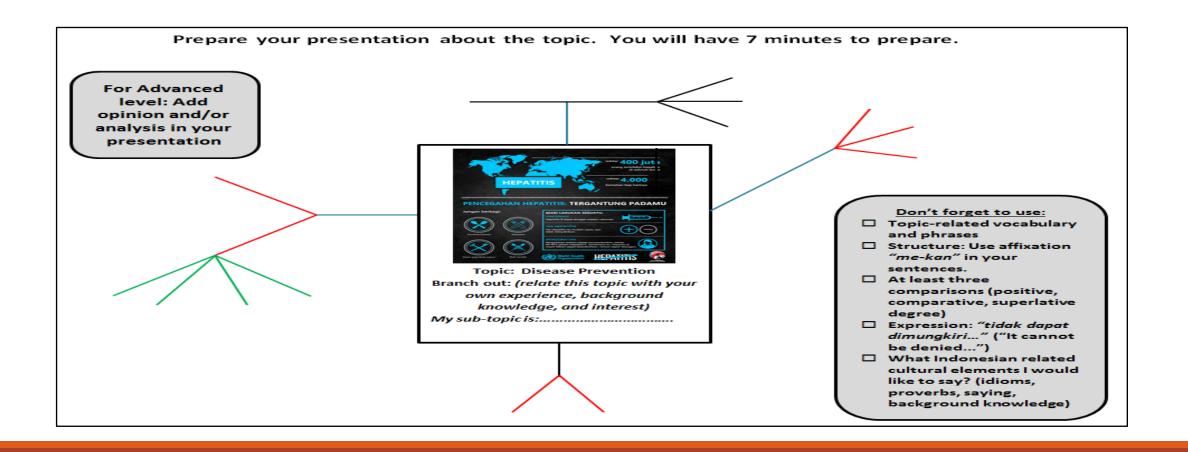
- ✓ A central image, which is the main idea, subject, or focus.
- ✓ Branches, which are the lines drawn from the central image to generate main themes.
- ✓ Every branch has a key image or key word drawn or printed on its associated line.
- ✓ Twigs, which are topics of lesser importance.
- ✓ A connected nodal structure that is formed by the branches.

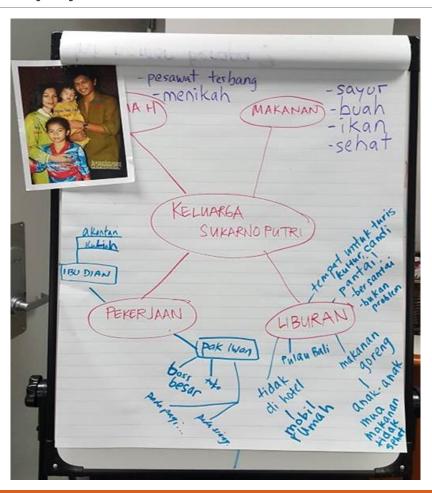
How Do We Integrate Mind Mapping

When and What Level?

Speaking and Reading
Cone/Job-Related
Any Level (Beginner to Advanced)

How Do We Integrate Mind Mapping

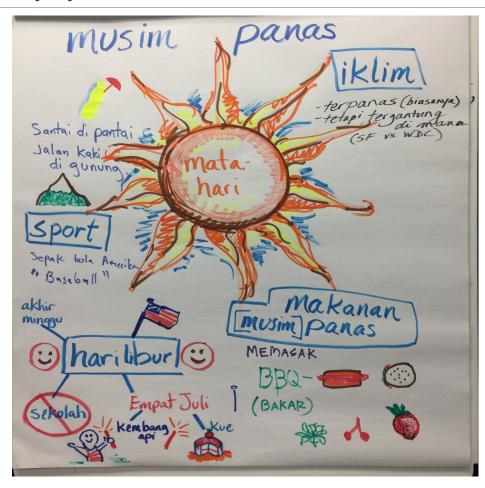




Student's voice:

"I use it to collect vocabulary. I almost can use them instantly!"

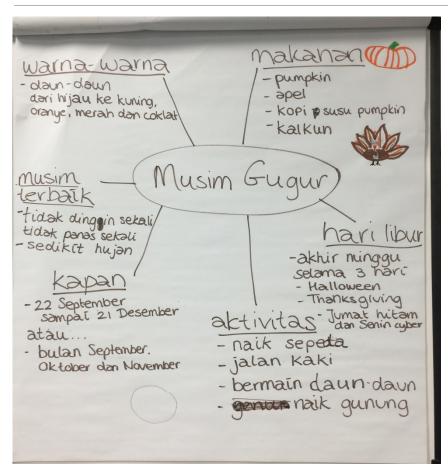
(Phase One Student – First week of training)



Student's voice:

"It helps me to visualize."

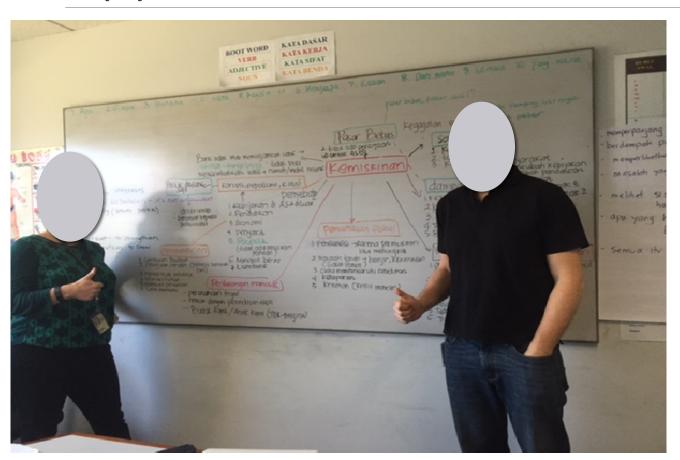
(Phase One Student – Second week of training)



Student's voice:

"I can speak without memorizing so many words!"

(Phase One Student - Second week of training)



Student's voice:

"Great way to brainstorm and learn from my classmates!"

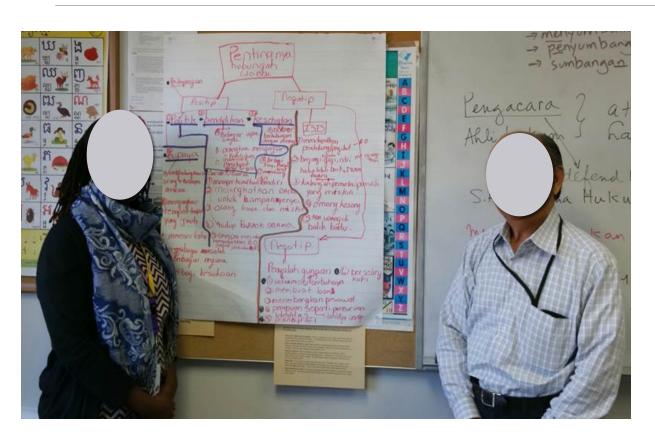
(Collaboration Activity: Advanced & Intermediate-Level Students)



Student's voice:

"It helps me to focus on the links and relationships between ideas, so you don't just have disconnected facts."

(Advanced-Level Student)



Student's voice:

"Mind-mapping saves me time because I don't have to read my notes over and over anymore."

(Intermediate student)

Hands-On Activity:

Let's give it a try!

Hands-On Activity:

TASK:

Follow the steps on your handout

- 1. Pick a topic
- 2. Choose your level (higher or lower level)
- 3. Put a number on the sub topic
- 4. Add sub topic
- 5. List word; phrases; or sentences in each sub topic

Conclusion: Why does mind mapping work well?

Because it is:

- □Student-center (a teacher is a facilitator and leading learner)
- □ Inclusive (can cater those who are not interested in a particular subject)
- ☐ Engaging (anyone can chip in and share ideas)
- ☐ Easy and practical (can be done by anyone, anywhere, and anytime)
- ☐ Enjoyable and fun (because of the various uses of images, colors, and texts)

Thank you!



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