

Mapping for Structure

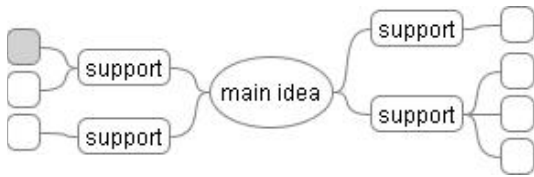
Mapping is a way of discovering and recording relationships among ideas within a text. When you map a text, you build on the framework you creating through previewing, and you also rely on notes and annotations you made while reading. Your map will reflect the structure of the text and the hierarchical relationships between ideas in the text. Keep in mind the key words and phrases that mark relationships between ideas.

To map, review your notes and annotations to determine the following three elements in the text:

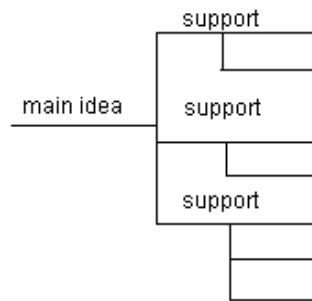
- Main Idea:* Find the author’s central concern or thesis. Restate this in a complete sentence in a central position on the map.
- Supporting Ideas:* Find ideas and evidence that support the main idea and list specific details on the map.
- Relationships:* Arrange the main ideas and the supporting ideas in a form that illustrates the relationships between them.

You will probably find that you prefer certain types of maps and that some texts lend themselves to specific mapping styles. Following are some different types of maps:

Bubble map – to illustrate complex relationships between ideas



Linear map – for texts with clear organization



If/Then (or Compare/Contrast) map – for texts that weigh evidence

IF	THEN
• cause #1	• effect #1
• cause #2	• effect #2
• cause #3	• effect #3
• cause #4	• effect #4
• cause #5	• effect #5

Pictorial map – for texts that use symbols to express meaning.

