



Information Maps organize material in a visual format so you can study the similarities and difference between concepts. They are a great exam preparation tool – you are learning the information as you create the maps.

How to make an information map

Look in your notes or text for material where there are categories of items which have a number of characteristics in common. Some examples are:

- Nutrition -- vitamins
- Psychology, Sociology -- theories/philosophies
- Languages -- verbs tenses
- Political Science -- time periods, theories
- Geography -- countries
- Earth Sciences -- soil, water, tree types

Create a chart with your categories along the left margin and the characteristics across the top. Fill in the boxes with information from class and readings.

Type of Memory	Definition	Amount of time info is retained	How information is held
Sensory Register	A memory system that...	Visual: up to half a second; Auditory : ~ 2 seconds	Visual or auditory “images” – “fleeting impressions”
Short Term Memory	A limited-capacity memory system involved in...	Up to about 30 seconds	Chunks – units of information (example...)
Long Term Memory	The memory system involved in...	No practical limits	Semantic categories – groupings that...

Benefits to making an information map

Self-testing: cover parts of the map and see if you can remember the information. This will help you determine what material needs to be studied more.

Noticing interrelationships: it is easier to see where items are alike or different when their characteristics are before you in map form.

Filling in the gaps: use all your course materials to fill in the map. If there is information missing, check with your instructor, TA, or a classmate.

Predicting exam questions: turn information in the chart into practice exam questions: IE. Which type of memory hold information for the shortest time?