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.

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

### 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?