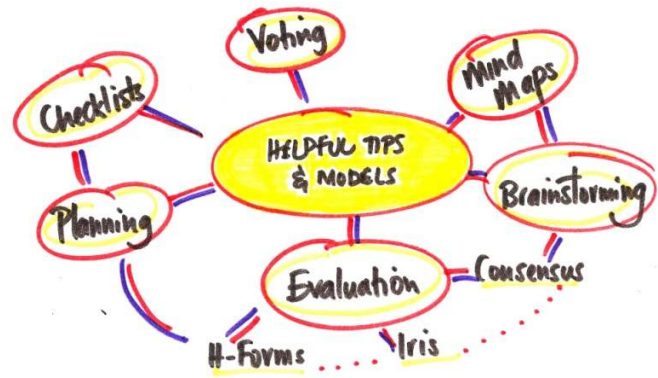


Helpful Models and Tips



Mind maps

A mind map is a diagram used to represent words, ideas, tasks, or other items linked to and arranged around a central key word or idea. Mind maps are used to generate, visualize, structure, and classify ideas, and as an aid in study, organization, problem solving, decision making, and writing¹.

The map is arranged intuitively according to the importance of the concepts, and is classified into groupings, branches, or areas, with the goal of representing connections between pieces of information. By presenting ideas in a graphical, non-linear manner, mind maps encourage a creative brainstorming approach to planning and organizational tasks. This approach encourages users to itemise and connect concepts without a tendency to be constrained by prior understanding or pre-existing ideas.

Characteristics of a Mind Map

- Graphical (highlight words or ideas with colours & symbols).
- Hierarchical or tree branch.
- Allows for creativity.

A mind map is often created around a single word or text, placed in the center, to which linked ideas, words and concepts are added.

Mind maps can be used for:-

- Problem Solving
- Outline / Framework Design
- Anonymous collaboration.
- Marriage of words and visuals.
- Individual expression of creativity.
- Condensing material into a concise and memorable format.
- Team building.

Mind maps can be drawn by hand, however, there are also a number of software packages available for producing mind maps at a more sophisticated level if necessary.

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mind_map

Please note: these resources are a compilation of our individual and research. Every effort has been made to reference resources. Please notify Community Waikato should you identify any referencing omissions.