

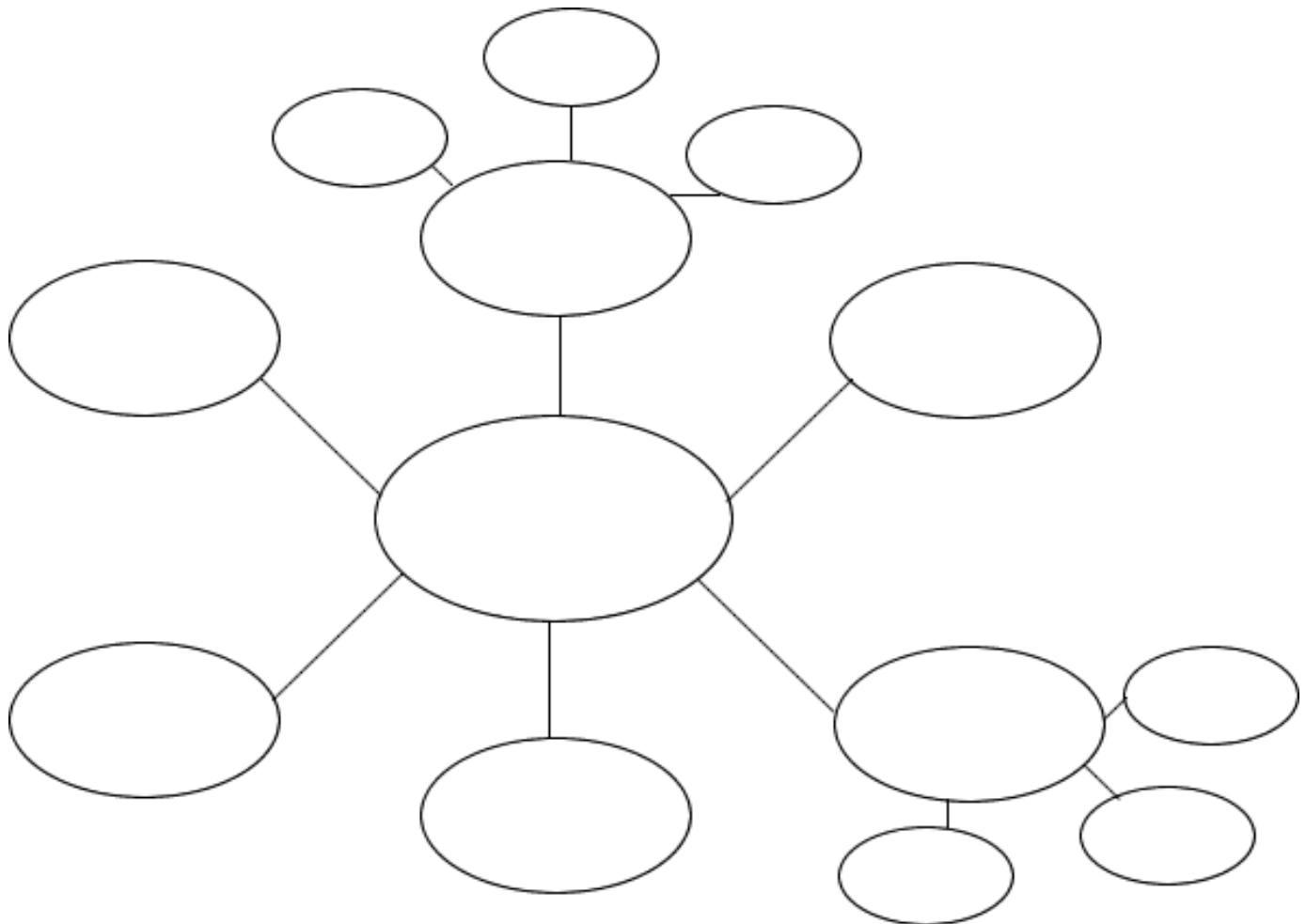
Concept Mapping

Once you select a general topic take time to brainstorm all ideas related to your broader topic. Concept mapping is a technique to help you create a visual image or diagram of your topic and how it connects with other ideas or concepts. **Write down any and all related issues that you think are related to your topic.** The concept map **helps you focus your thinking**, prompting you to start asking questions about your topic.

Using the topic that you have selected for your research create a concept Map. Use this [blank concept map](#) to make a map like the one below.

Assignment Part 1: Brainstorming

- Write your proposed topic into the center oval on the [Concept Map](#).
- Thinking freely, without any expectation of the result, write down any and all related words, concepts, people, places or things, even remotely related to your topic idea, in the other circles.
- Select one or more of the related topics from your brainstorming map that you would be interested in pursuing as an area of inquiry on your topic.
- You might need to do some very preliminary research to get some background information about your topic. A general or subject encyclopedia is usually a good source for this type of information.



Assignment Part 2: Refocusing

- Goal: To help you narrow your topic. Use the blank [Refocusing Concept Map](#).
- Drawing on your own knowledge and the results of your preliminary research, the *Concept Map – Refocusing* exercise asks you to think about specific Causes, Solutions, Effects and/or Benefits related to your main topic.
- It will also help think of any people, places or things directly associated with or related to your topic.
- By considering one of these particular aspects to your subject, it will help you narrow the focus of your research and formulate an effective research question.

