

Concept Mapping Worksheet

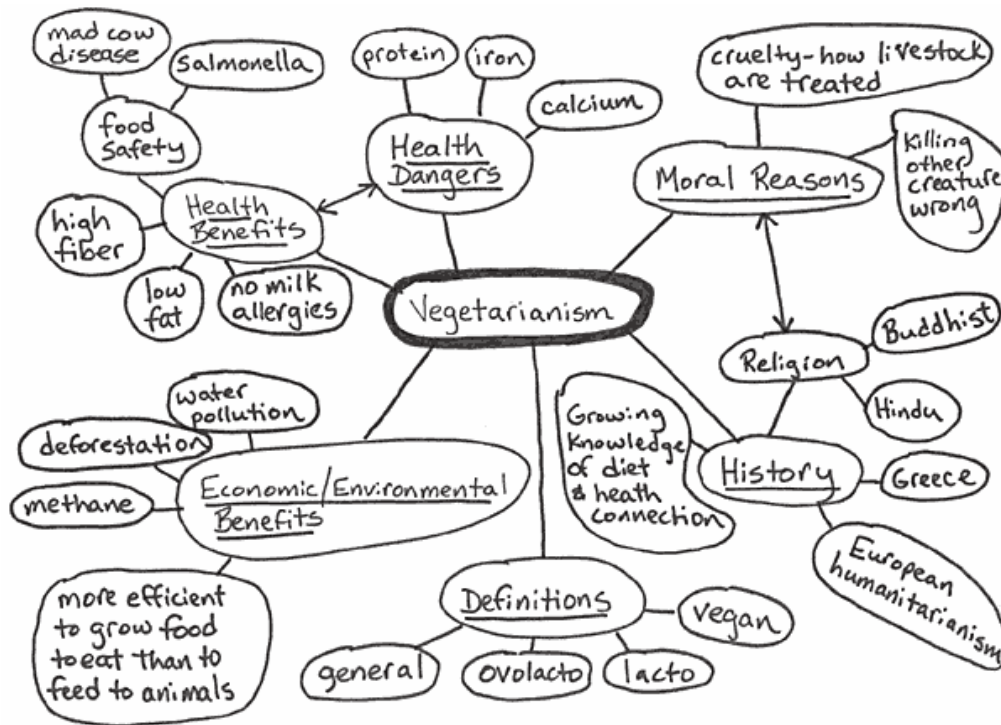
Formulating your research topic:

[Name, Class section, Topic]

One of the most important steps in the research process is defining your topic. Concept mapping is a brainstorming activity that can help you figure out what you already know about your subject, and examine the relationships among those ideas.

Watch a quick [video](#) about the process:  Concept Mapping

Here is an example of a well-developed concept map about vegetarianism:



From Jim Kinnie, University of Rhode Island (http://www.uri.edu/library/staff_pages/kinnie/lib120/vegmap.gif)

On a separate sheet (or the back of this sheet) make a concept map of your topic ideas.

Questions to ask yourself as you create your map:

- Are there ideas that naturally relate to each other? Are there common threads that you can weave together? Try to indicate where you think ideas belong together and connect them in a way that makes sense to you.
- Are there areas of interest that you need to know more about before proceeding? Flag them for further reading.
- Can you identify the area of exploration that is most interesting and important to you? Start another map with that idea in the middle.

When you have completed several drafts of a topic map for this assignment, see if what you have made suggests an outline for the paper you will write.