



Hi Klaus,

Before we get into the "laws" of Mind Mapping, let's first chat briefly about where Mind Mapping came from.

The Origins of Mind Mapping

Mind maps (or similar concepts) have been used for centuries, for learning, brainstorming, memory, visual thinking, and problem solving by educators, engineers, psychologists and people in general. Some of the earliest examples of mind maps were developed by Porphyry of Tyros, a noted thinker of the 3rd century as he graphically visualized the concept categories of Aristotle.

More recently the semantic network was developed as a theory to understand human learning, and developed into mind maps by Dr Allan Collins, and the noted researcher M. Ross Quillian during the early 1960s. As such, due to his commitment and published research, and his work with learning, creativity, and graphical thinking, Dr Allan Collins can be considered the father of the modern mind map.

Popularized from the 1970s on by Tony Buzan, Mind Maps are now used by millions of people around the world - from the very young to the very old - whenever they wish to use their brains more effectively. Similar to a road map, a Mind Map will:

- Give you an overview of a large subject/area.
- Enable you to plan routes/make choices and let you know where you are going and where you have been.
- Gather and hold large amounts of data.
- Encourage problem solving by seeing new creative pathways.
- Enable you to be extremely efficient.
- Be enjoyable to look at, read, muse over and remember.
- Attract and hold the eye/brain.

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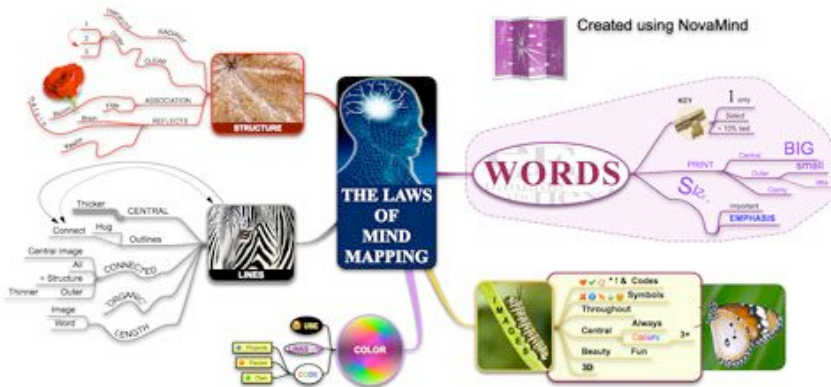


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The Laws of Mind Mapping



Tony Buzan put together a number of guidelines for creating effective Mind Maps - he calls these the "Laws of Mind Mapping" (click Mind Map to enlarge):

1. Start in the centre with an image of the topic, using at least three colors.
2. Use images, symbols, codes and dimension throughout.
3. Select key words and print, using upper or lower case letters.
4. Each word/image must be alone and sitting on its own line.
5. The lines must be connected,

starting from the central image. The center lines are thicker, organic and flowing, becoming thinner as they radiate out.

6. Make the lines the same length as the word/image.
7. Use colors - your own code - throughout.
8. Develop your own style of Mind Mapping

Develop your own style of mind mapping:

9. Use emphasis and show associations.
10. Keep the Mind Map clear by using Radiant hierarchy, numerical order or outlines to embrace your branches.

With the structure of the Mind Maps, and the use of FlexiBranches®, NovaMind became the first Mind Mapping application to allow you to create Mind Maps which follow all the laws of Mind Mapping.

How to Mind Map with NovaMind

1. Start a new NovaMind document.
2. Select your topic, problem or subject to be Mind Mapped.
3. Gather any additional materials - research papers, text information.
4. Type in your Mind Map title.
5. Use dimension, expression and at least three colors in the central image in order to attract attention and aid memory. Do this using images, text properties, borders, shapes etc.
6. Your top-level branches that radiate from the title are your BOIs (Basic Ordering Ideas), categories or chapter heading equivalents on the branches.
7. Add child branches under your BOIs to hold supporting data (most important closest to the centre) the further down the tree, the more detailed.
8. Use images wherever possible = branch shapes, attach graphics, graphic text.
9. Use colors as your own special coding to show people, topics, themes or dates and to make the Mind Map more beautiful.
10. Capture all ideas (your own or others) then edit, re-organize, make more beautiful, elaborate and clarify as a second stage of thinking.
11. Save your document and print scaled onto one page or half-a dozen which can be aligned together to make a poster. You can even export to Keynote or PowerPoint (Mac) for an online presentation.

What next?

Our next email will show you what brainstorming is all about.

Gideon King, CEO
NovaMind Software
Mind Mapping at its best
www.nova-mind.com

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