

- Announcements
- Syllabus etc.
- Course Documents
- Assignments
- Faculty Info.
- Communication
- Tools
- Discussion Board
- Grades

- Refresh
- Detail View

Collect Flag Clear Flag Mark Read Mark Unread Search

Thread: [Capaldo - Concept Maps](#) Reply  
 Total posts: 3 Unread posts: 0 [Previous Thread](#) | [Next Thread](#)

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Refresh  Select All Go

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Author: Connie Capaldo  
 Posted date: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 7:55:55 PM CST  
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I believe concept maps facilitate learning in many contexts. I use them the most with students on organizing thoughts for writing paragraphs. I have also used them for vocabulary lessons where they have the word, definition, antonyms, synonyms, and sentences using the word in context. Another way that I like to use them is for story mapping. We map out the setting, characters, plot, problem, etc. This helps my children with comprehension and retelling of the story. I don't teach science and social studies but if I did I think concept maps could be very useful.

Children at our school begin making graphic organizers from 1st grade on. The whole school uses the old fashioned pen and paper version. When I introduced my students to Kidspiration for the first time they were motivated and excited about making their map as opposed to when they must do it with paper/pencil they look at it as drudgery.

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