Creating concept maps, which are also known as graphic organizers, is a powerful study strategy because it helps you see the “big picture” of your learning.

Making one is simple:

- **Identify a concept.**
- **From memory, try creating a graphic organizer related to this concept.** This is an excellent way to assess what you already understand and what you need to review.
- **Go through lecture notes, readings and any other resources you have to fill in any gaps.**
- **Your completed concept map is a great study tool.**
  - Elaborate (out loud or in writing) each part of the map.
  - List related examples, where applicable, for sections of the map.
  - Re-create your concept map without looking at the original, talking through each section as you do.

Draw concept maps by hand or make them digitally with Inspiration, Mindmeister, or Coggle.

Four types of concept maps are shown on the next page, although there are many more. Think about how you can apply these examples to your own studying.

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1. This example illustrates the similarities and differences between two ideas, such as Series and Parallel Circuits. The similarities are in the intersection of the 2 circles.

![Series and Parallel Circuits Diagram]

2. This example illustrates the relationship between ideas that are part of a process, such as a Food Chain.

   ![Food Chain Diagram]

3. This example illustrates the Causes and Effects for an event, such as The Civil War.

   ![Civil War Causes and Effects Diagram]

4. This example illustrates the relationship between main idea, such as Climate Change, and supporting details.

   ![Climate Change Diagram]