5. Mind maps

A mind map helps you to organise your thoughts. This is what the term literally means. Mind maps can be useful in many different situations when you have to think about a specific topic: gathering ideas, preparing for a presentation, planning a project, etc.

**Instructions for creating a mind map**

- Write the name of your topic in the middle of your piece of paper and draw a circle around it. Be sure to use paper that is large enough.
- Draw a few thick lines radiating out from the circle. On each line, write the name of one sub-topic related to the main topic in the middle.
- From the thick lines, you can draw additional, thinner lines that represent sub-categories or questions related to the sub-topic written on the thick line.
- Try to find as many different terms as you can and place them in the correct categories. You can use different font sizes, symbols and colours.

**Compare your mind map with those of your classmates**

- What do you notice?
- In what ways are your mind maps similar?
- In what ways are they different?
- What are the most important terms?
- Does the organisation of the sub-categories make sense?
- Is anything important missing?
- What would you do differently next time?