

# Creating Concept Maps

## How Do I... Undergraduate Research Guides

Part of the "Start My Research Series"

### In this guide you will learn how to:

- Make use of a concept map in your research.
- Understand the importance of keywords in research.
- Use alternative terminology when you start your research.

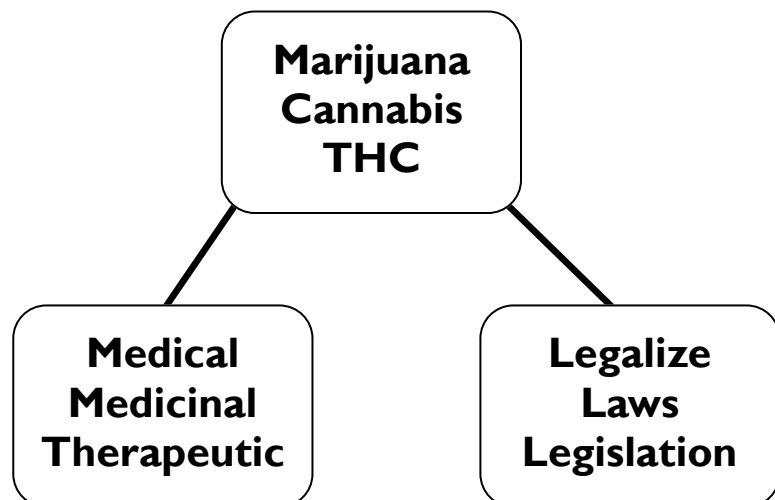
### What is a concept map?

A concept map provides you with a visual image of your topic and its various aspects. It includes:

- The main topic idea in the center of the map with other aspects of your topic surrounding it (these are your keywords).
- Alternative terminology (keywords) to describe your topic should be included for each keyword.
- The relationships of the various aspects of your topic to each other.
- The opportunity to think of your topic in new ways.

As an example:

If one of the research questions for your topic was:  
Should the **medical** use of **marijuana** be **legalized**?  
your concept map might look like this:



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# Make your own concept map!

This YouTube video shows you how to create a concept map:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=av5PKePIkce>

Check out other How Do I... Guides in this series, Start My Research:

- **Choosing a Topic**
- **Developing a Topic**
- **Use Reference Sources**
- **Find Topic Ideas**

