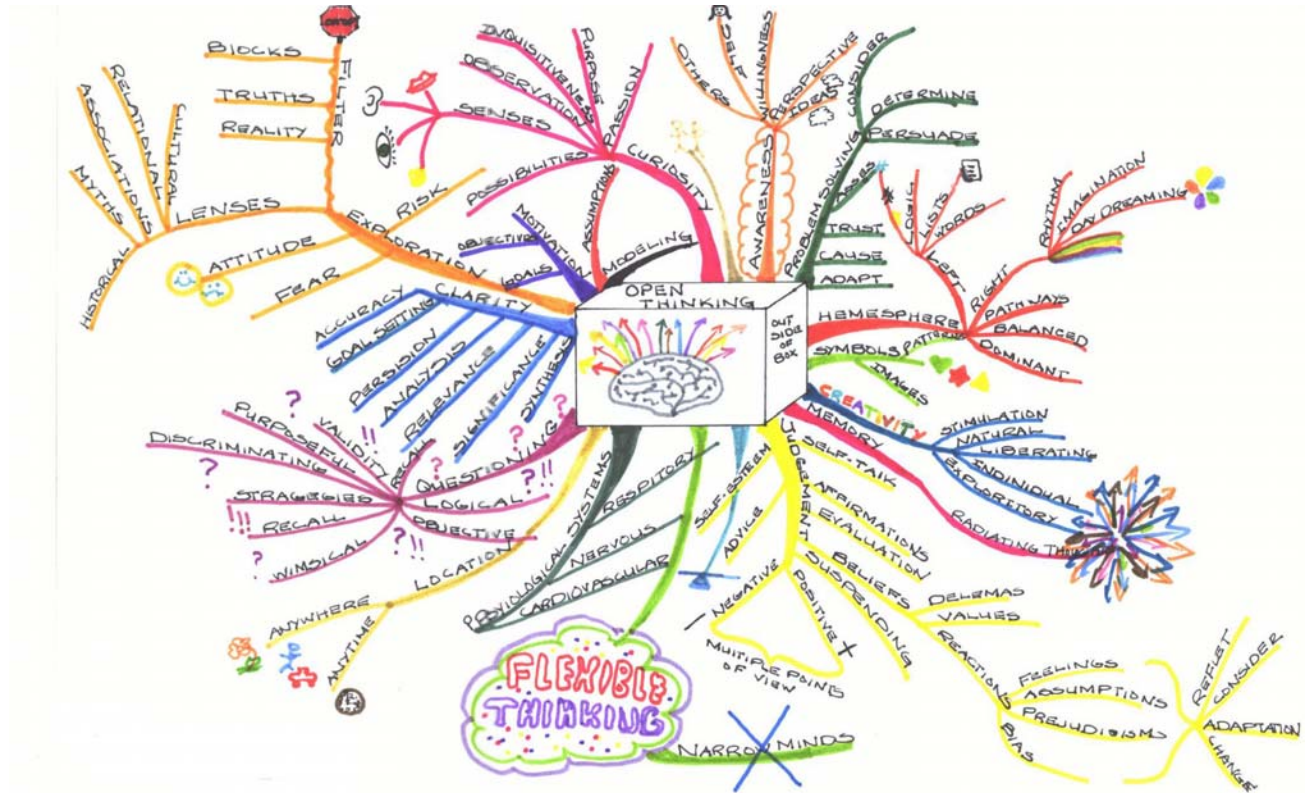


# Aspiring Leadership Mind Mapping

Innovation and creativity is something many adults are said to lose somewhere between playing in the sandbox and entering the workplace. As children, most of us were more creative and imaginative than we are as adults. Gregerman (2007) advocated, adults have lost the “knack for generating ideas and getting excited about things” (¶1). The result...the magic of possibility is lost. One technique to promote and enable innovation in personal and organizational tasks is mind mapping.

Tony Buzan developed the technique in the early 1960's to assist individuals with administrative tasks, problem solving, note taking and interpersonal communication. This brainstorming technique promotes whole brain thinking. The act of creating a mind map allows an individual to sort thoughts and generate ideas simultaneously.



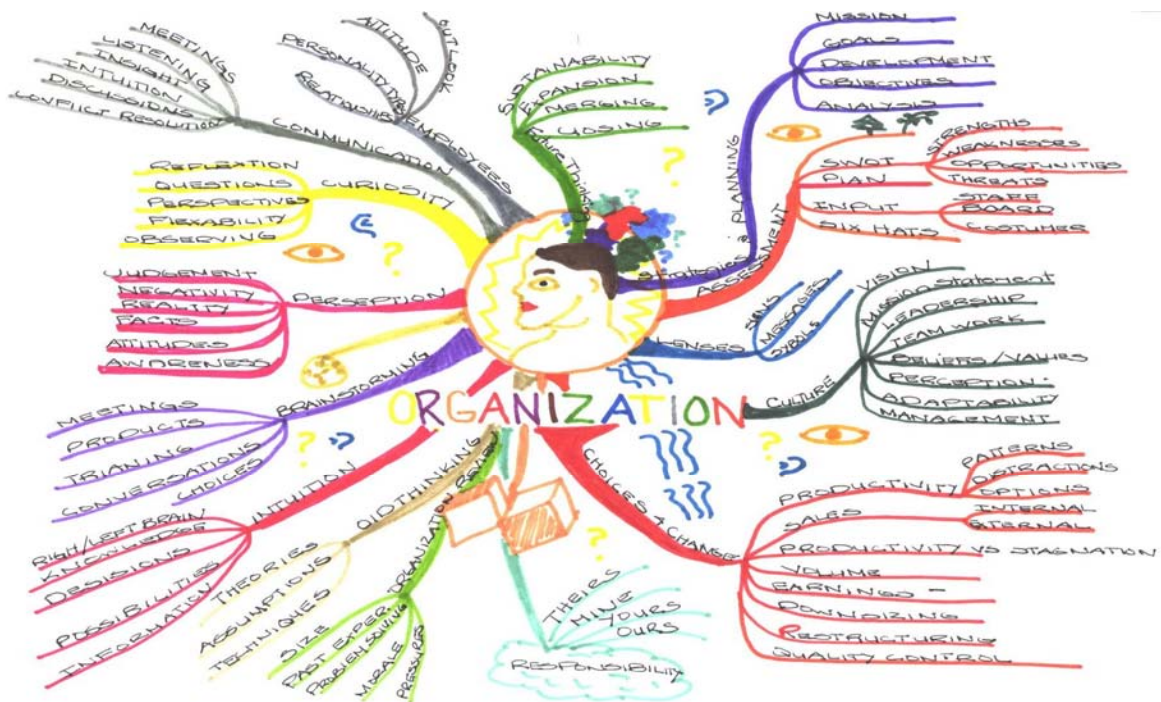
A mind map is an image centered diagram that radiates from a central key word or idea. It is a tool that can be used to help an individual illustrate their experiences, sort emotions, define strategies and generate options. Mind mapping is an invaluable tool for simplifying complex tasks such as strategic planning, presentation preparation, meeting management, test preparation and systems analysis” (Gelb, 1998, p. 184). This technique is helpful for recording minutes, sorting data, creating anecdotal timelines and preparing for difficult conversations.

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To begin a mind map an individual requires a topic, several colored felt pens and a sheet of paper. Tony Buzan (1991) suggests using the following foundation structures for Mind Mapping:

1. Start in the center with an image of the topic, using at least 3 colors.
2. Use images, symbols, codes, and dimensions throughout your Mind Map.
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 central lines are thicker, organic and flowing, becoming thinner as they radiate out from the centre.
6. Make the lines the same length as the word/image.
7. Use emphasis and show associations in your mind map.
8. Keep the Mind Map clear by using radial hierarchy, numerical order or outlines to embrace your branches.

Mind mapping is a wonderful tool for awaking your creativity and “quicken your spirit of invention” (p.191).



Buzan, T. (1991). *The mind map book*. New York: Penguin.

Gelb, M. (1998). *How to think like Leonardo da vinci*. New York: Random House.

Gregerman, G. (2007). *Mind mapping*. England: Oxshire.