

Structural Knowledge Maps Instructions

Value of the Assignment: 15 Points on final grade

Steps of the Research Process Implemented:

Step 1: Define the problem or state the focus question (refine statement of problem from first written assignment)

Step 2: Justify using an interdisciplinary approach (refine justification from first written assignment)

Step 3: Identify potentially relevant disciplines

Step 4: Preliminary literature search

Step 5: Foundations for Developing Adequacy in Disciplines

Basis of evaluation:

Your grade will be assigned based on the thoroughness and clarity with which you “map” your research problem. You will produce three maps. It is not necessary to write in paragraphs or even full sentences, but you must still convey information clearly. You should review textbook definitions and explanations of the perspective of a discipline, disciplinary relevancy, and the purpose of “mapping” a problem to complete the maps most effectively. Refer to Chapter 7 in the textbook (Repko, 2008) for the general format of the three maps, though you may develop your own method of visual representation (these maps are heuristics— aids to understanding—so the format is less important than the content and the illustration of relationships between ideas).

The “System Map” will demonstrate your understanding of your problem as a system or relationship of multiple parts, assess the function of the single parts, and relationships between parts. Use the symbol features of Word, color coding, or another appropriate visual means to highlight relationships and connections between parts of the problem. Follow the example set in class of the construction of a system map for a sample problem.

The “Research Map” will connect the problem to potentially relevant disciplines and identify elements of the perspective or relevant insights produced within that discipline.

The “Concept-Principle” map will identify one concept from the literature and explain its relationship to a disciplinary research field. If you have not yet completed enough of a full literature search to fully explain how the concept has been applied in research, you may explain your plan to investigate the concept more fully.