



## Brainstorming and Mind Mapping

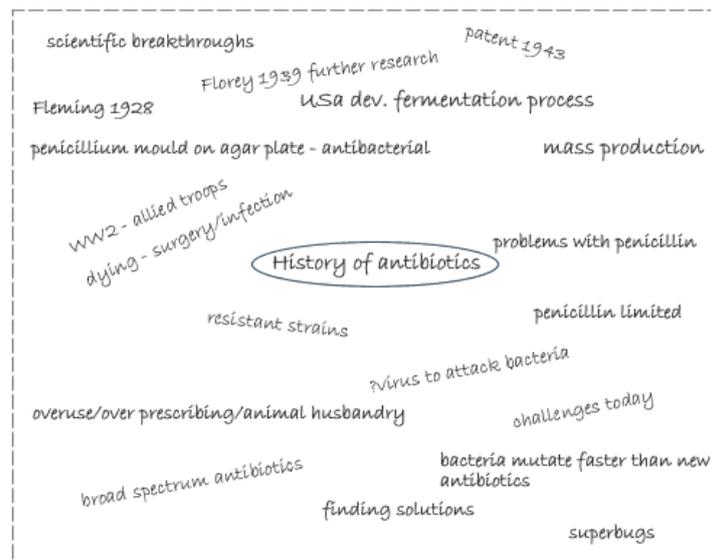
### Brainstorming

Brainstorming is a thinking process for recalling what you know about a topic.

### How to brainstorm

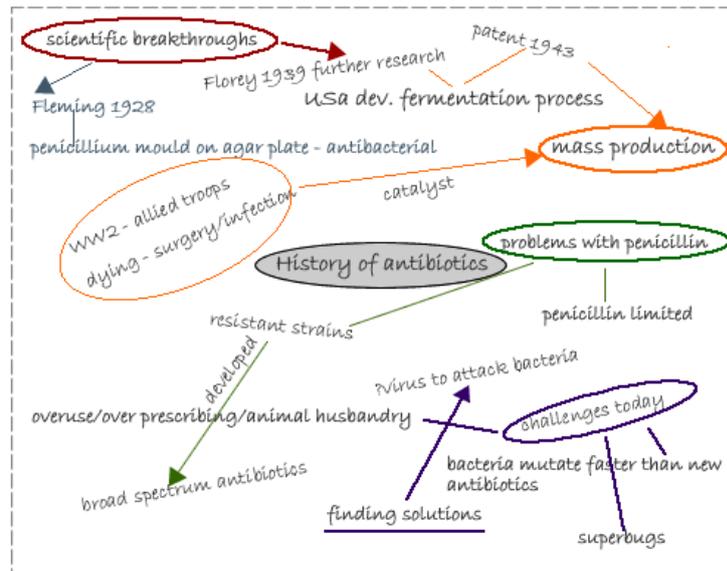
Write your topic on a piece of paper. Quickly write down anything that comes to mind – even if it seems stupid.

Work freely. Write key words. There is no need to categorise your information at this stage. Keep writing until you cannot think of anything else.



### Organise the brainstorm

Next, go through all of your points, crossing out those that are not useful and taking note of those that are most important for your topic. From this brainstorm, you can take the relevant points to make a mind map.



## Mind mapping

Mind mapping is a visual representation of your thinking on a topic. It groups similar ideas together, helping to show the relationship between various points and ideas.

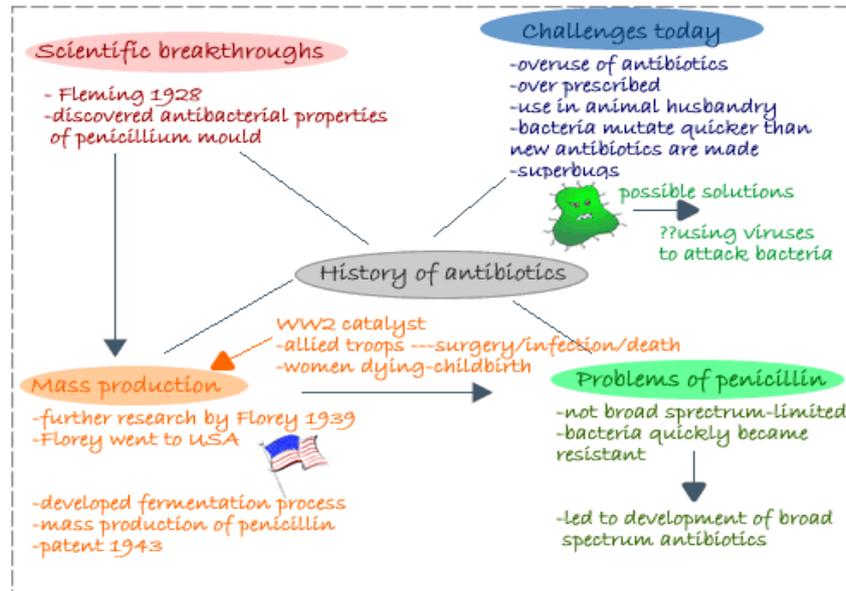
Drawing a mind map involves gathering all your ideas about a particular concept and organising them into a pattern that shows the relationships between the ideas. You can order information according to importance or by comparing and contrasting different points, and showing problem-solution and cause-effect relationships.

Mind maps let you see the big picture of a topic and make connections between details.

## How to draw a mind map

1. Write the topic in a circle in the centre of a piece of paper (in landscape orientation).
2. For each of the main points, draw arms out from the circle.
3. Write the key words of the main point along each arm or at the end.
4. Draw smaller arms out from the main arms and write the sub-points that relate to each main point. Continue with smaller arms if you have other points or examples for the sub-points.





## Uses for mind maps

You can use mind maps to help with various aspects of your study. Some examples include:

- Using detailed mind maps as tools for organising and planning assignments.
- Drawing more involved mind maps complete with diagrams and colour as permanent records of topics or courses.
- Drawing quick, sketchy mind maps to help you revise your last class or lecture.
- Preparing a mind map to revise a unit of work or study module for an exam.
- Using mind maps to take notes in a lecture or while reading.

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