

# MESSY MAGIC

## Component: Academic Writing

ILO: To get students to write an essay plan in a mind map



### TOOL

Using a messy, unstructured approach to essay planning can help to get all ideas onto the page before a sequential order is found.

### ACTIVITY

Discuss a topic to be written about.

Ask students to create a mind map listing as many relevant factors to the subject as possible.

Students now look for connections between different components on the map and start to prioritise and categorise them.

Reviewing the map starts to create a narrative order which will become the essay plan.

### HOW

You could model this with a mind map that the whole group contributes to on the board to demonstrate the process.

### LARGE GROUP TEACHING

Demonstrating this as a whole-group activity can be useful as a first step before students create their own individual maps. They can peer-assess their maps in small groups.

### ONLINE TEACHING

The maps could be made on Zoom whiteboard or Jamboard (a Google whiteboard - <https://jamboard.google.com>)

### SUCCESS

Students have a clear idea of how to prioritise and categorise when essay planning.

### NEXT STEPS

Use the PECTA TLA to write text for each part of the essay.