

# VISUAL LEARNERS

Visual learners best understand and remember concepts if they can see these concepts in “pictures, diagrams, flow charts, time lines, films, or demonstrations” (Felder & Silverman, 1988, p. 676).

**How to Help Yourself:** Find or create a visual representation of the course material, whether it is a diagram, sketch, or photograph to help you remember!

## STUDY HABITS OVERVIEW

1. **Make visual connections with concepts** – most students receive information verbally through lectures or written words (textbooks, articles, etc.). Your goal is to create a visual connection with these words, whether you are brainstorming, note-taking, or test-taking.
2. **Create a visually appealing study environment** – increase your focus by creating a private area that visually motivates you to study. Most visual learners study better by themselves.
3. **Use effective study tools** - write and sketch out ideas on a white board, note cards, sketch books, google calendar, planner, etc.

## BRAINSTORMING: MIND-MAPPING

Also known as “clustering” or “mind mapping,” this technique helps you see the associations behind ideas and arrange them according to category.

- 1). Place your central concept in a circle in the middle of your paper. For example, you are writing an essay on your calling and three ways that your calling impacts the world:



- 2). Then begin writing down associated ideas or terms as branches. You may write down as many ideas as you like!



3). Then, evaluate your ideas. See where your ideas may be too broad and need to be made more specific. Look for logical connections between your ideas, so you can use these connections to organize your assignment.

### NOTE-TAKING: HIGHLIGHTING

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Color-code your notes to help you see visual connections. Assign 2-3 different colors to certain values and use them consistently throughout your notes. For instance, highlight **key terms in gold**, **main ideas in purple**, and **potential information needed for a test or an assignment in green**.

Then, review the elements that you highlighted after you completed reading the chapter, section, or article! When you prepare for a test or assignment, review these highlighted notes to help you recall the main ideas.

### TEST-TAKING: MENTAL VISUALIZATION

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Associate key terms or concepts with a visual image or concept. Create “positive, pleasant, colorful, and three dimensional images, as these qualities make the image more realistic and memorable” (Spencer, 2018, p. 99).

Example: If you were attempting to remember the five spheres of leadership influence, you could choose a different type of ball for each one:



Community



Organizational



Self



Family



Social

B). You could also use keywords, acronyms, acrostics, or categorizing to help recall information.

Example: **Acronym** = **NASA** - this word represents the phrase National Aeronautics and Space Administration and is formed by using the first letters of the words in the original phrase.

**Acrostic** = **C**urious, **A**dorable, **T**hrill-**S**eeking - this phrase forms the word “cats” through the first letter of each word and can help you remember key terms.