

# Idea Mapping



at The Academic Resource Center

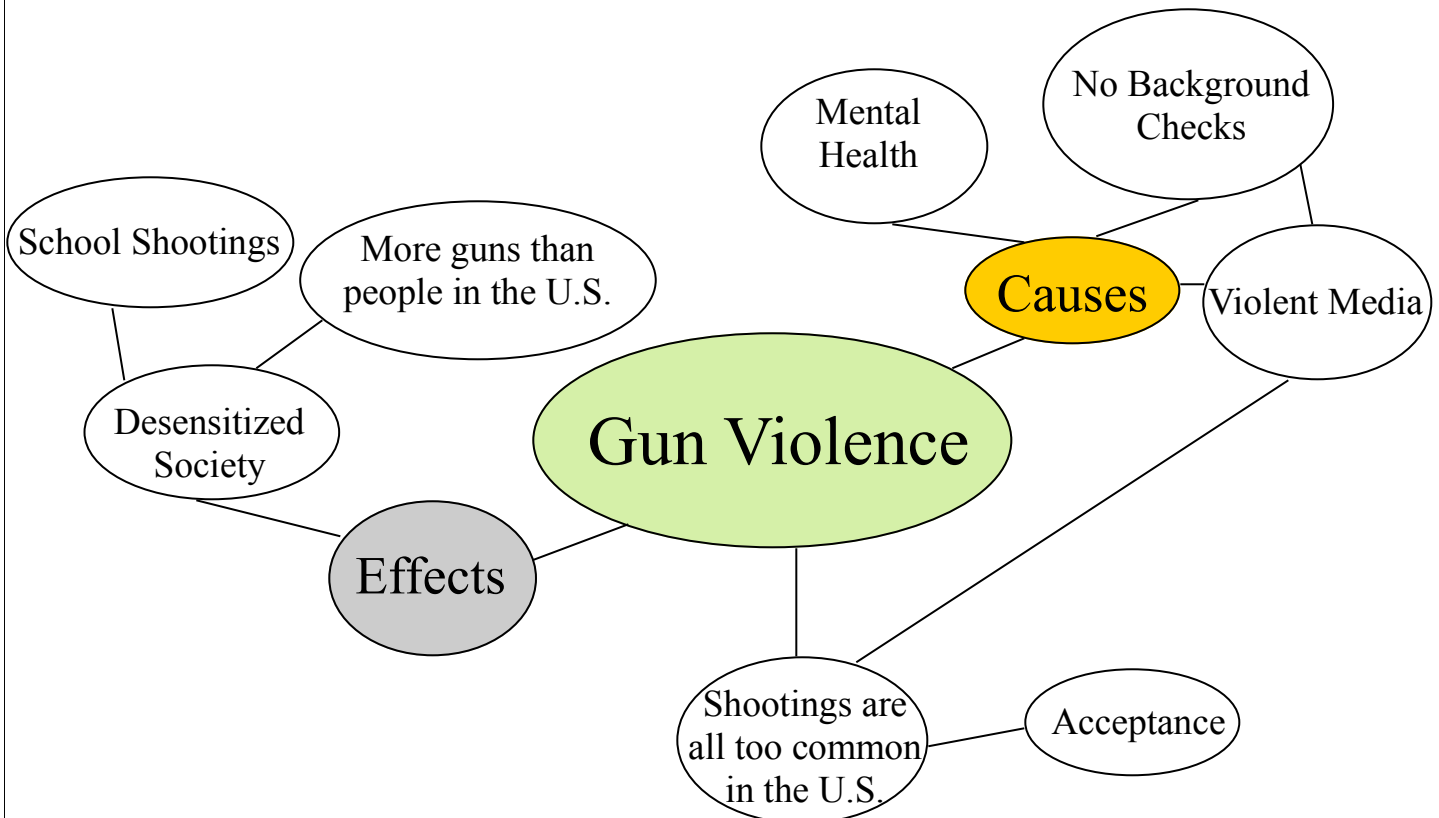
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Using visual thinking strategies throughout the writing process can help you to envision your topic and to make connections between ideas. Take a look at these different mapping techniques and try one out when you need to brainstorm, develop an essay topic, or organize your ideas.

## Clustering

**Clustering** is a brainstorming strategy to quickly brainstorm ideas and begin to make connections between them. Write down ideas, circle, and connect them to related ideas. When done, consider what ideas could lead toward a more specific topic.

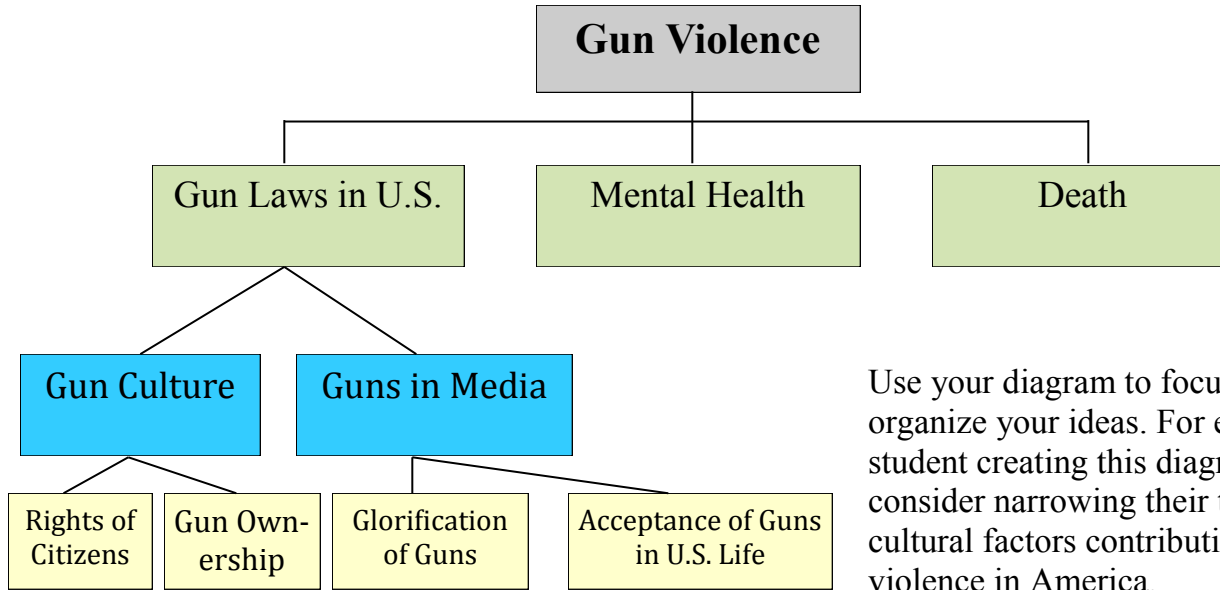


\*Adapted from: *Patterns for a Purpose*, 4th Ed., Barbara Clouse.

# Idea Mapping, *Cont'd*

## Tree Diagram

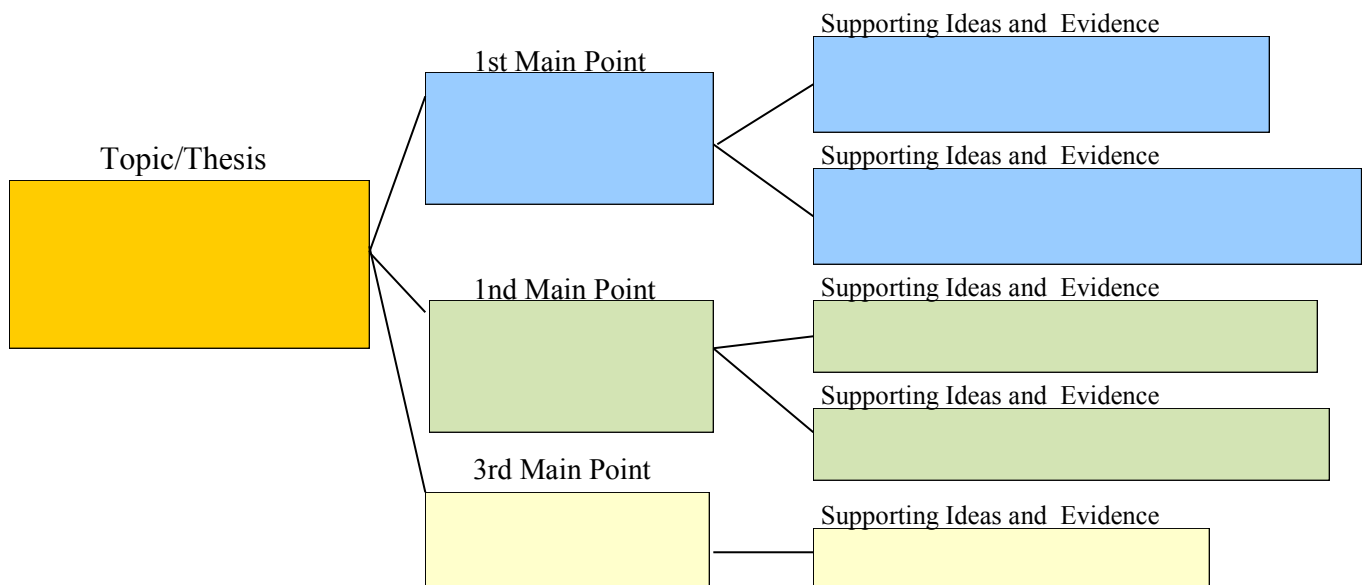
A tree diagram can help you narrow your topic and to develop more specific examples directly related to it.



Use your diagram to focus and organize your ideas. For example, the student creating this diagram might consider narrowing their topic to the cultural factors contributing to the gun violence in America.

## Essay Map

Perhaps you have a narrowed topic but are struggling to organize your thoughts before writing. Instead of typing up an outline, try mapping one out instead.



\*Adapted from: *Patterns for a Purpose*, 4th Ed., Barbara Clouse.