

Brainstorming: Mind mapping

Why mind map?

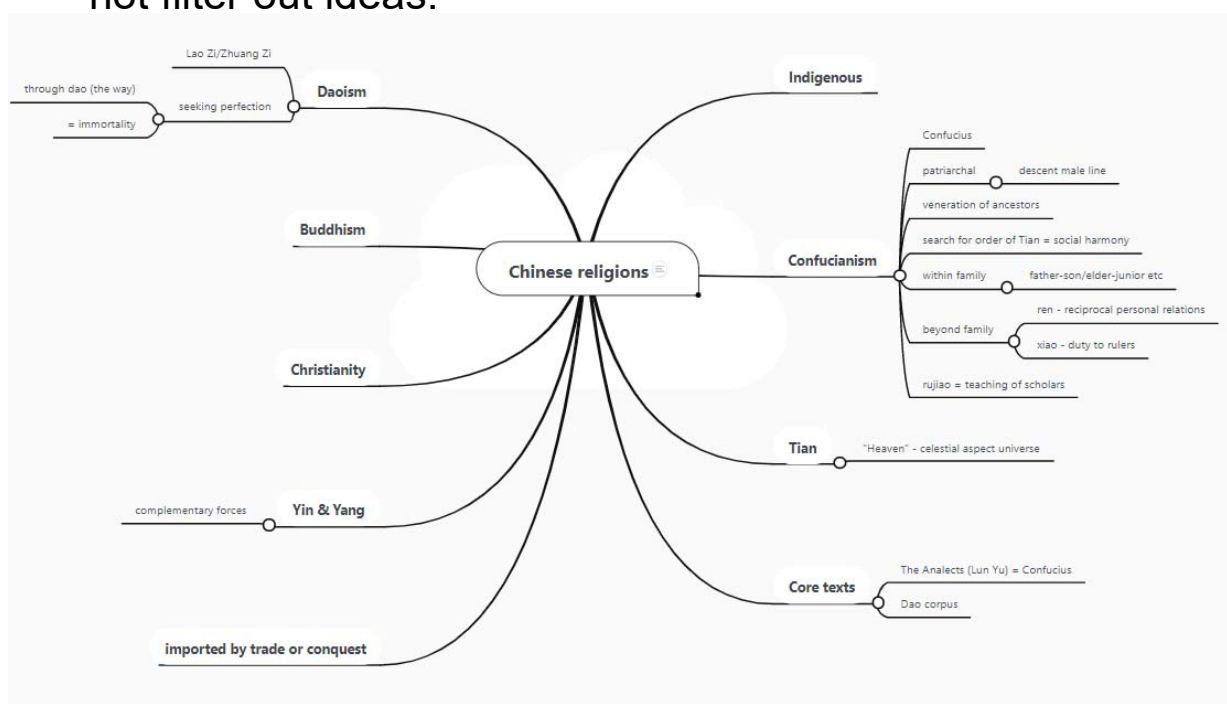
One effective form of brainstorming is mind mapping. A mind map is a visual representation of your ideas, consisting of words, images and colours, and can help you to:

- focus on your research topic/question
- structure and plan your assignment
- combine one or more types of major thought relationships
- identify relationships between ideas/concepts.

Stage 1

You can create a mind map on paper, whiteboard or digitally, using visual mapping software such as [FreeMind](#). To begin:

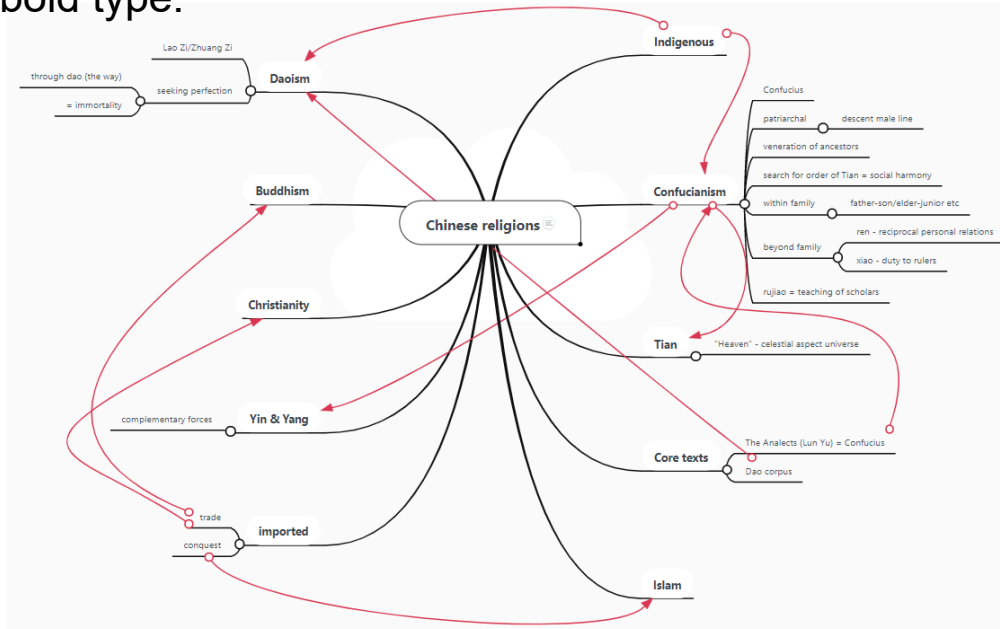
- write your topic in the centre of a blank page
- associate your ideas freely anywhere on the page and do not filter out ideas.



Stage 2

When you have run out of ideas:

- consider each item and determine how this point is related to other points and to your topic
- map relationships with lines, arrows, colours, images and bold type.



Stage 3

Use the relationships you have identified to reorganise your ideas.

