When you can visualize items from your text or classroom notes, they are much easier to recall. Whenever possible, use “mind maps” similar to the examples shown below to organize material (or create your own patterns). Once you’ve decided what information should be placed on your design, draw a new one and fill in the blanks from your memory.

**Sample Patterns**

**Chronological Time Lines** for History classes.

```
War of 1812     Civil War
1800     1812     1865     1900
```

**Trees** are popular among biology students and genealogists, but can be used for many academic subjects.

```
Try listing 3 study skills you have learned
1. ____________________
2. ____________________
3. ____________________
```

**Flow Chart**
**Study Map**

**Sun Shapes or Clocks** for items that occur in a particular sequence

**Clustering** for short essays or branching lines.

**Hand Prints** for ideas of equal importance. Speeches can also be given with greater ease using the hand print.

Map a chapter from a text or from a lecture in one of your classes using one or more of these techniques. Color will also create a stronger glue for your mind and is highly recommended by cognitive psychologists. Try it several times before giving up on the technique.