

THE STUDY OF POLITICS

Activity 1

1. On a sheet of paper try to think of and list whom you believe to be the top five 'great' contemporary and/or historical political figures or philosophers.
2. Organize yourselves into groups of three. Present and combine your list with each group member.
3. Choose one person from the combined list.
4. Conduct a web search and find a famous quote said by that person.
5. Present your findings to the rest of the class explaining your person of choice and why that particular statement resonated with you.

Activity 2

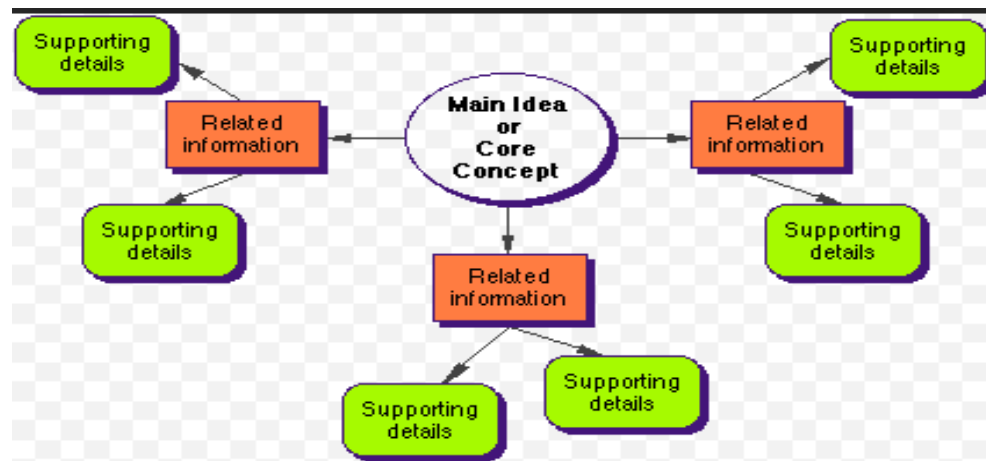
The Nature of Politics

1. Individually, create a concept map listing what you believe politics is all about.

A *concept map* visually illustrates the relationship between concepts and ideas. Concept maps begin with a main idea (or concept) and then branch out to show how that main idea can be broken down into specific topics.

How to Build a Concept Map?

- **Start with a main idea, topic, or issue to focus on.**
A helpful way to determine the context of your concept map is to choose a focus question—something that needs to be solved or a conclusion that needs to be reached. Once a topic or question is decided on, that will help with the hierarchical structure of the concept map.
- **Then determine the key concepts**
Find the key concepts that connect and relate to your main idea and rank them; most general, inclusive concepts come first, then link to smaller, more specific concepts.
- **Finish by connecting concepts--creating linking phrases and words**
Once the basic links between the concepts are created, add cross-links, which connect concepts in different areas of the map, to further illustrate the relationships and strengthen student's understanding and knowledge on the topic.



2. In groups of three, consolidate concept maps into one on a sheet of flip chart paper.
3. Each group presents their concept map to the class.
4. From the group presentations, generate a concise definition of politics as an academic discipline.