**Concept Map Exercise**

**Most People do not think in a linear style when they are working creatively. We think by linking groups of ideas together “webbing” or “linking” a path to the final subject and topic idea.**

**Concept mapping helps you create a visual design, picture, or diagram of the thinking you are engaged in so you can reflect, sort, and refocus the ideas easily. Use this concept-mapping exercise to allow your brain to “free think” along the way to the development of a research question.**

**Phase I: Brainstorming Instructions**

**In the center of a blank sheet of paper, write down the broad topic, “Vegetariansim.” Draw a circle around this main idea.**

**Now take a minute or two and think about Vegetarianism. Thinking freely, without expectation of the result, write any and all related words, concepts, or symbols outside the circle. Come up with at least four subtopics that relate to your main idea. For each of your four subtopics, think of at least three or four subdivisions that fall under the subtopics.**

**Now draw squares around single ideas and circles around groups of ideas.**

**Use lines to connect these items to the main idea and to subgroups of ideas.**

**Use arrows to interconnect ideas or to form subgroups of ideas.**

**Leave lots of white space to so your concept map can grow.**

**Don’t worry about being exact or perfect – don’t analyze the work.**