Concept Mapping

Concept Mapping is converting a verbal explanation of a process or state of affairs to a visual model.

How do I map?
First reject the idea of an outline, or paragraphs using sentences.

You will need:

- a pencil (you'll be erasing!) and a blank (non-lined) big piece of paper
- a blackboard and (colored) chalk
- "post-it" notes

Think in terms of key words or symbols that represent ideas and words.

Write down the most important word or short phrase or symbol for the center.
Think about it; circle it.

Post other important concepts and their words outside the circle

Edit this first phase
Think about the relation of outside items to the center item
Erase, edit, and/or shorten words to key ideas
Relocate important items closer to each other for better organization
If possible, use color to organize information
Link concepts with words to clarify their relationships

Continue working outward
Freely and quickly add other key words and ideas (you can always erase!)
Think weird: combine concepts to expand your map or; break boundaries
Develop in directions the topic takes you—not limited by how you are doing the map
As you expand your map, it tends to become more specific or detailed

Set the map aside
Later, continue development and revision
Stop and think about relationships you are developing
Expand the map over time (right up to an exam if necessary!)