

Checkpoint 1: Task 1 Mind Mapping and Preliminary Research Notes

What to Do

In Task 1 teams, students ‘map’ their collective thinking. Maps begin with topics of general interest and questions that derive from them (students may use the Q-matrix to help formulate various questions to pursue). Maps can include statements, questions, concepts or phrases, quotations from preliminary research, images or symbols, and so on; there are few limits. Students may map with arrows to connect ideas or choose some form of organic color coding. However, students do not need to overthink the organization; this is not a presentation poster. Thus, aesthetics does not play into the process, as doing so will take the focus away from the content.

This process takes some time since students engage in preliminary research as they help complete the mind-mapping activity. Teams use a shared document to collect sources, notes, quotations, information, etc., informally to help them with mapping. These exercises aim to explore potential topics and research questions inspired by their interests, academic and career goals, or real-world problems of personal investment. Students may use information, activities, readings, or their previous submissions as potential starting places.

Teams submit a copy of their mind map and preliminary research notes to show adequate progress for this checkpoint.