

# CONCEPT MAPPING – WHAT DO I BELIEVE?

## Beliefs & Ideologies

Marshall Leaver, Lifetime Committee Member

### Syllabus Content

- the similarities and differences between belief systems and ideologies
- the nature and role of shared values and understanding within belief systems and ideologies and how this creates meaning, purpose and an identity for individuals and groups
- how belief systems and ideologies express values and beliefs and ways of perceiving the world at the micro, meso and macro levels
- the nature and role of hierarchy and internal power structures within belief systems and ideologies
- the process of secularisation in the development and extent of belief systems and ideologies within Australia.

### Syllabus Outcomes

- H1 evaluates and effectively applies social and cultural concepts
- H2 explains the development of personal, social and cultural identity
- H3 analyses relationships and interactions within and between social and cultural groups
- H10 communicates complex information, ideas and issues using appropriate written, oral and graphic forms

### Related concepts

values, beliefs, customs, worldview, ritual, philosophy, secularisation

### Rationale

The following personal reflection activity utilises concept mapping and thinking routines to explore student identity through beliefs and ideologies. It would be a useful introductory activity for the Beliefs and Ideologies unit as it focuses on student connection to the more complex concepts and content that will follow.

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### Task One

1. What are the experiences, values and beliefs that have shaped your life and identity? Create a mind map with you at the centre. Map your responses to the issues and questions below as they are relevant to your life and your families experiences. Consider:
  - What are 3-5 values you hold as very important?
  - Give THREE 'I am...!' statements.
  - What are your beliefs regarding, birth, life, death and a life-after-death?
  - Do you believe in ghosts and spirits?
  - What do you value more: financial security OR salvation?
  - What is your religion?
  - Do you do or have you ever attended church? Why and why not. Where? When? Why?
  - Do you have any experience of different religions other than the one you may have been raised in?
  - Have you had a profound worship experience?
  - Do you appreciate the distinction between religion and spirituality?
  - Have you ever felt Spirit?
  - Have you ever experienced Spirituality?
  - Do you have a clear commitment to an ideology?
  - Identify 'isms that are you and 'isms that you are not.
  - Do you celebrate Christmas/ Easter/ Eid/ Ramadan/ Passover/ Australia Day? How do you celebrate?
  - What are the important rituals for you/ your family at these celebrations?
  - Do you pray? Why do you pray and who do you pray to?
  - Do you believe in God? If so, is your God an Interventionist God? That is, can God stop bad things from happening to the faithful?
  - Can God be on the TV? On the Internet? On the battlefield?
  - Have you ever experienced/ heard about (in your micro world) the authority of a faith based institution?
  - Have you personally experienced conflict in relation to faith/ belief?
  - Have you personally experienced an inspiring moment/ insight in relation to faith/ belief?
  - Is worship important? Why/ Why not?

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2. Map your responses to the issues and questions above as they are relevant to your life and your families experiences.
3. Form random groups of 3-4 to share and discuss aspects of your personal experience and micro level story with each other. You only need to share a story you are comfortable with revealing.

**Teachers share aspects of their personal experience in these matters of belief, values, ideologies and life experiences to role model sharing across the class.**

4. Whole class sharing of key examples to these questions with aim of exploring (syllabus details):
  - the similarities and differences between belief systems and ideologies
  - the nature and role of shared values and understanding within belief systems and ideologies and how this creates meaning, purpose and an identity for individuals and groups
  - how belief systems and ideologies express values and beliefs and ways of perceiving the world at the micro, meso and macro levels
  - the nature and role of hierarchy and internal power structures within belief systems and ideologies
  - the process of secularisation in the development and extent of belief systems and ideologies within Australia.