

# Expanding Vocabulary Through Brainstorming: Semantic Mapping with HIV/AIDS Focus Words

**Content Area Note:** This strategy can be used to assist English language learners, special education students, and others to understand HIV/AIDS concepts.

## Directions

Select an “HIV/AIDS focus word:” a word pertaining to a key concept that you would like students to think about. This activity can also be used to prepare students for reading an essay, story, or article about HIV/AIDS.

## Examples

*Virus, abstinence, prevention, decision making, Person Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)*

- Write the focus word on the board/newsprint.
- Have students list on paper as many words as possible that are related to the focus word.
- Then have students share their words. Write them on the board/newsprint, grouping them into categories as you write.
- Number the categories and have students title them. Use any disagreement about defining or categorizing words to spark discussion.