

CONCEPT MAPS AS AN ASSESSMENT TOOL IN A WEB-BASED COURSE

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ABSTRACT

Assessment of student understanding for the purposes of research is not always best represented from a multiple-choice exam. Other types of assessments would be useful in measuring student understanding. One type of assessment tool that has been reported is the concept map. To this end, we have developed a concept map program as an assessment tool for student understanding in a web based chemistry course. The concept maps are created by students in a web environment from a list of concepts and linking words. Students have the ability to drag the concepts around the screen to create a map that when connected through linking words, can be submitted for grading. The submitted map is graded by predetermined algorithms developed by the course instructor. We present the current version of the concept map program, a sample of student maps, and the validity and reliability of grading in the program.