



# Argument Mapping

MBB1 2023

Session Materials

# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 About this booklet

This booklet contains theory, exercises, model answers and general information for use in MBB1 Tutorials on argument mapping. Each session has its own subsection in this booklet.

## 1.2 Tutorial Outline

Session	Objective	Details
1	Argument mapping and introduction to software.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Core elements</li><li>• Mindmup software</li><li>• Toy examples</li></ul>
2	Tips to improve argument mapping. Practice mapping simple arguments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tips</li><li>• Groupwork</li></ul>
3	Introduce bridging claims and 'Rabbit Rule'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bridging claim exercises</li><li>• 'Fill in the blank' argument map examples to identify 'magic rabbits'</li></ul>
4	Mapping a MBB1 sample essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Apply your learning by mapping a sample essay as a group</li></ul>
5	Mapping MBB1 course content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work in a group to create an argument map of course content that can function as an essay plan</li></ul>

## 2 SOFTWARE

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### 2.1 MindMup

The argument mapping software we'll use for these sessions is a version of MindMup set up specifically for argument mapping.

#### Access instructions:

1. Visit this link: <https://www.mindmup.com/tutorials/argument-visualization.html?orig=/>
2. At the top of the page, click 'sign in'
3. Enter your email to receive a 'one time password'
4. Submit the password you were sent to log in.
5. Then click 'file' then 'new' and finally '**Argument Visualisation**'

Whenever you create a new map, ensure that you create a new 'Argument Visualisation'. Otherwise you won't have access to the features you'll need.

### 2.2 Groupwork

From time-to-time we'll be doing exercises in small groups. Logistically, this will involve one member of the team working as the 'scribe' on their own device, using MindMup to create argument maps. The 'scribe' will take input from their group to create the argument maps.

### 2.3 MBB-1 Argument Mapping Workshop Homepage

We've set up a home page that houses some of the material and information required for the workshops:

- <https://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/huntlab/mbb-1-argument-mapping-workshop/>

#### 3.1 Label claims, arguments, sub-arguments, objections, and rebuttals in these paragraphs

##### 3.1.1 The case for nuclear power

We should be building more nuclear power plants because nuclear power has very low greenhouse gas emissions and is one of the most reliable sources of electricity in the world. According to the IPCC, nuclear power has lower life-cycle CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than solar PV. Also, according to the US Department of Energy, our 104 nuclear power plants operate on average more than 90% of the time.

### 3.1.2 Should home-schooling be banned?

(Adapted from <https://www.kialo.com/should-homeschooling-be-banned-9647>)

Recently, there has been some controversy over home-schooling which revolves around whether home-schooling should be banned. Those that believe it should argue that home-schooling gives children a biased education. 75.3% of respondents to a survey of adult home-schooled alumni reported that they were taught the superiority of a particular political ideology (HARO 2014 Survey of Home-schooled Alumni).

On the other hand, banning home-schooling would infringe upon the most basic freedoms of liberal democracies; one of which (according to the US supreme court) is the right to oversee the raising and education of one's own children.

Slowing the spread of sudden oak death (*P. ramorum*) is now not possible, and has been impossible for a number of years, according to a new study. The research was led by Nik Cunniffe of the University of Cambridge, in collaboration with Richard Cobb from the University of California, Davis.

There's so much pathogen mass now in California forests that the study's model finds that it will just spread, and spread. As pathogen biomass increases, says Cobb, "the rates of spread accelerate, and so does cost." More specifically, the study found that unchecked, sudden oak death will grow to affect close to ten times the current area — from around 1,550 square kilometres today to 14,000 square kilometres by 2030.

Some people think you could stop the spread of sudden oak death by going in and removing infected trees across a large area. However the study also found that an attempt to manage the problem by removing infected trees over 200 square kilometres annually, at a cost of \$ 100 million, would make little dent in this spread.

## 3.2 Use MindMup to map these arguments

### 3.2.1 Rats

Why should the public be concerned about a rising rat population? Multiple reasons. First, the presence of rats is an economic issue. They damage utility lines and wires. They start fires, and they damage a lot of a city's infrastructure in locations we can't observe. Secondly, it's a public health concern. Rats roam the sewer systems and carry all kinds of germs. They can bite vulnerable people. Third, it's an aesthetic issue. Nobody wants to live on a street or visit a restaurant where there are rats.

### 3.2.2 School Uniforms

I hated wearing a school uniform when I was in high-school, and I think that they should be banned. For one, they are expensive, I had to replace a school jersey I lost at a cost of \$250. They are also uncomfortable; the shirts were made of polyester which doesn't breathe as well as other fibres.

When I asked why we had to wear them, I was told that they help promote safety on the campus because it prevented gangs present at the school from displaying their colours and symbols which could lead to violence.

This seemed a bit silly to me as surely there are better ways to promote safety on campus. When I investigated it there seemed to be some evidence that increased funding for things like metal detectors and school police officers made an appreciable difference to violence rates at some schools (Chen, 2022).

### 3.2.3 Drug legalisation<sup>1</sup>

Illegal drugs fuel organised and serious crime, the enforcement of these laws harms communities and using drugs can often be a positive experience. For these reasons, all drugs should be legalised.

The Brookings institute, in an article from 2021 argued that the demand for illegal drugs is the root cause of much of the violence and murder committed by criminal organisations. Moreover, criminalising the activity of drug users has negative effects on individuals, their families, and society. For example, incarcerated adults are more likely to develop emotional and behavioural problems (Davis, L.M et al. 2011).

Finally, drugs can induce states of consciousness that individuals would not otherwise have access to (Presti, 2017). However, some drugs can impair one's ability to make moral, rational, and autonomous judgments.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from <https://www.kialo.com/should-all-drugs-be-legalised-7100?path=7100.0~7100.1>

## 4 SESSION 2

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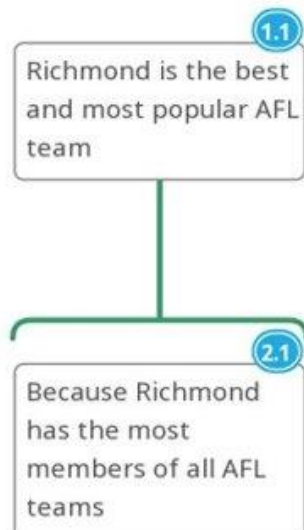
### 4.1 Ways to improve argument maps

#### 4.1.1 Be clear

Improve the following examples:



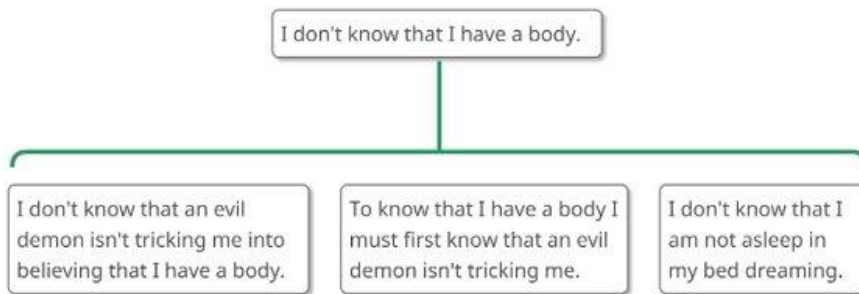
#### 4.1.2 Exclude logical language from claims and arguments





#### 4.1.3 Eliminate danglers (arguments that do not contribute or distract from the argumentation)

Which argument(s) would you eliminate from this example?



#### 4.1.4 Place arguments in a single reason when and only when they support a conclusion more strongly together than separately

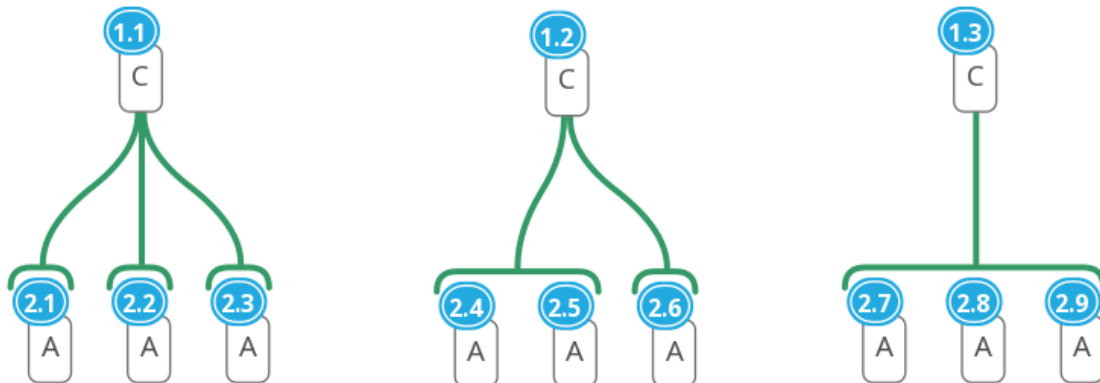
Contention:

- Whitney killed Dylan

Arguments:

- Only 1 in 100 million people have genetic marker A
- Whitney has genetic marker A
- The person who killed Dylan has genetic marker A

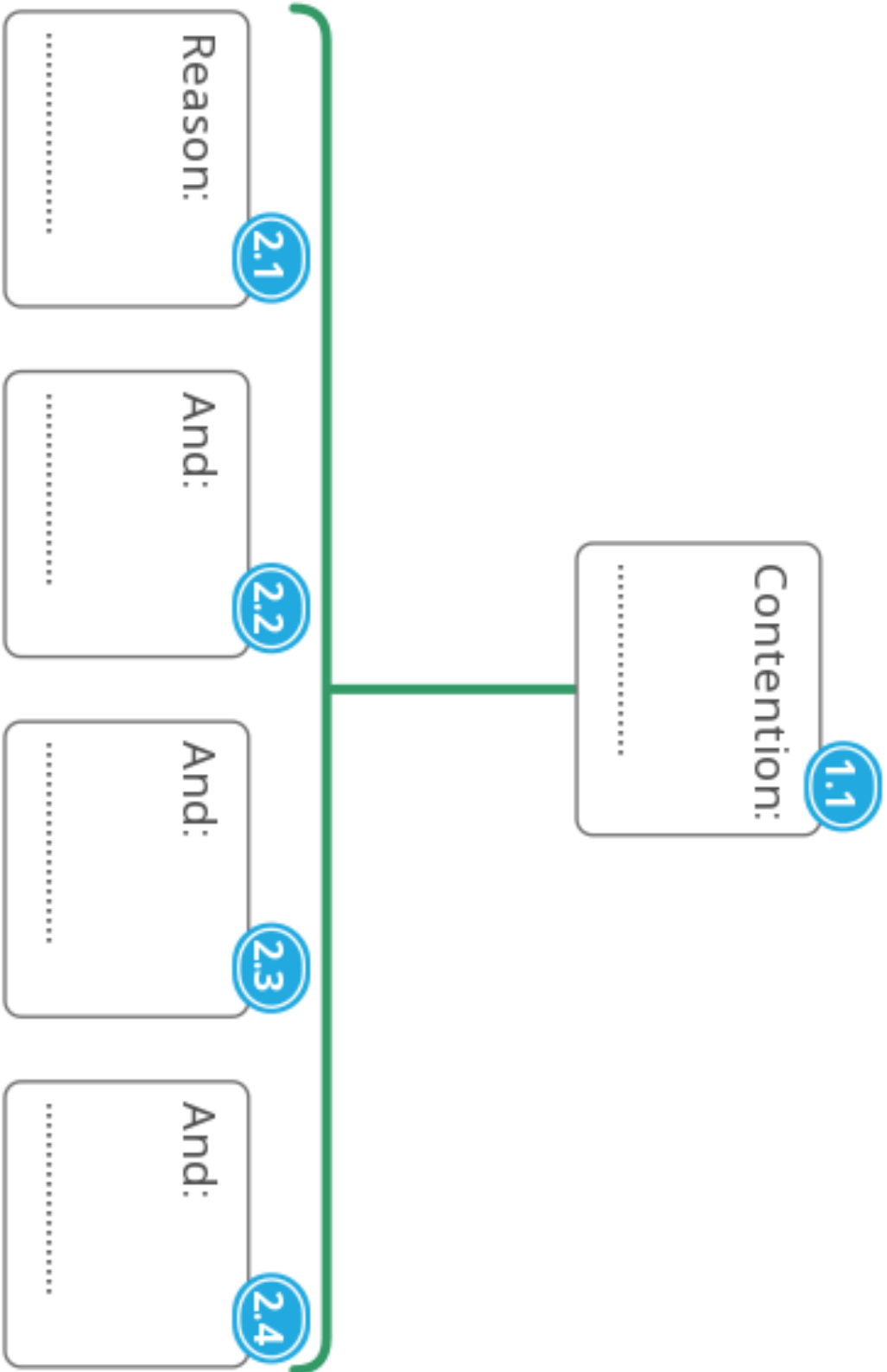
How would you map this argument?



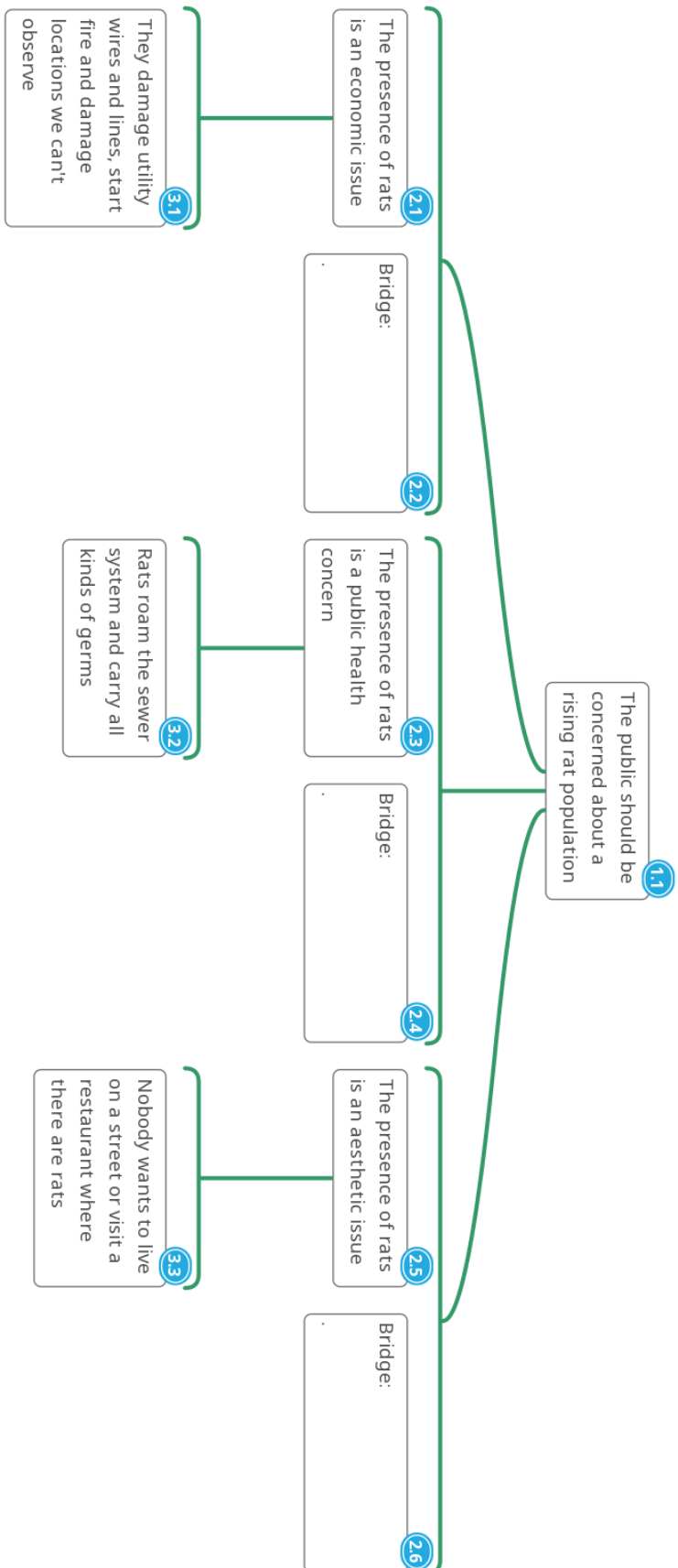
### 5.1 Map these arguments (using bridging claims)

#### 5.1.1 Soil carbon

Our whole world revolves around the carbon in the soil, because it's those carbon molecules that feed soil life. And it's those micro-organisms that feed all the plants that nourish all the animals that feed civilization.



### 5.1.2 Rats revisited (fill in missing bridging claims)



### 5.1.3 Normalising relations with the taliban<sup>2</sup>

[Link to scaffold available on home page]

The world was shocked at the hasty and chaotic withdrawal of US troops in Afghanistan, which led to the Taliban assuming power and multiple countries closing their embassies in Kabul. Now there are opinions that West should normalise its relations with the Taliban.

There are two main reasons that are often cited in support of normalisation. The first is the West's moral obligation to help rebuild Afghanistan as a functioning state. More than 70,000 Afghan civilians have been killed since 2002 and unexploded ordinance continues to kill and maim civilians (Hakimi & Price 2021). The west is responsible for this damage as they have been at war with the country for 20 years.

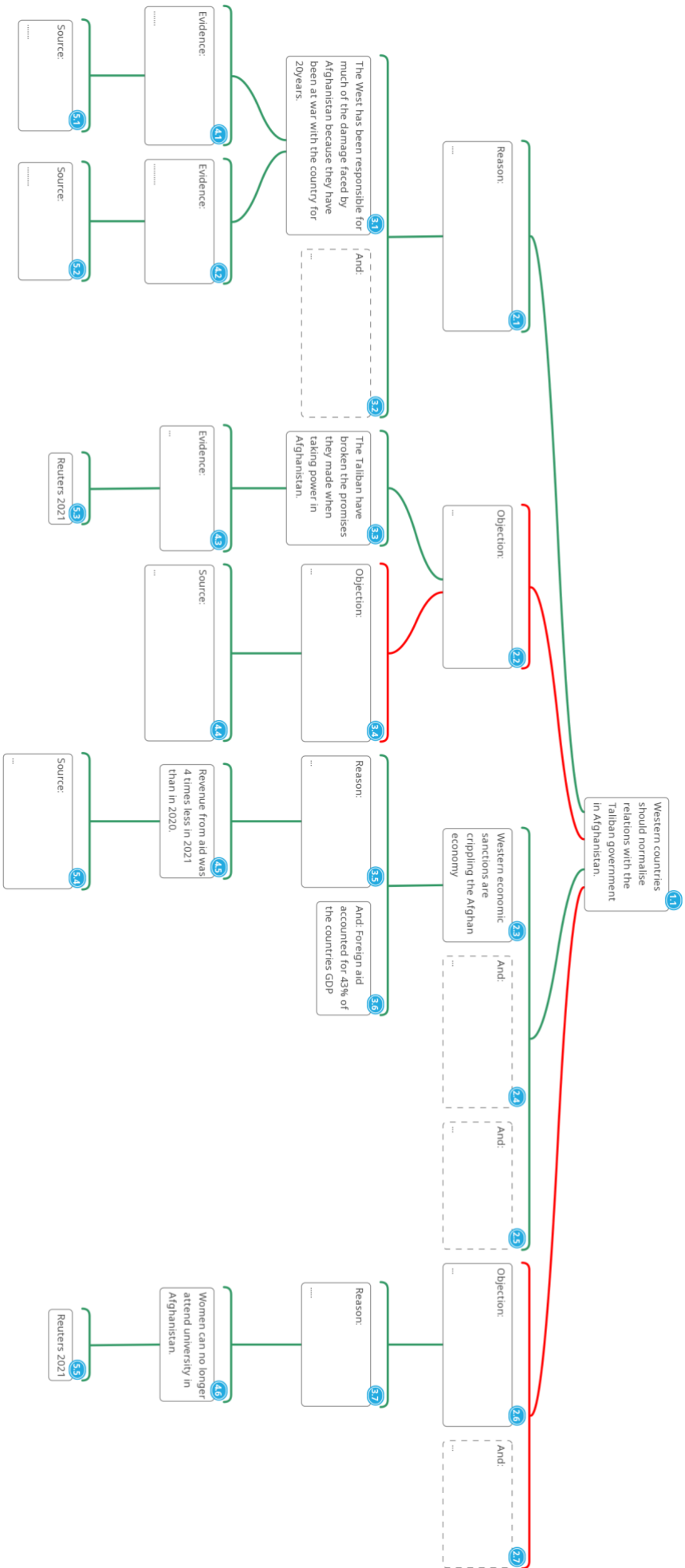
The second reason is that Western economic sanctions are crippling the Afghan economy. The economic sanctions imposed by the West stopped foreign aid into Afghanistan, which accounted for 43% of the countries GDP. Marcetic reports that in 2021, revenue from aid was 4 times less than it was in 2020 (Marcetic 2021)

There are objections to normalising relations as well. First, is that the Taliban have not proven that they are reliable international partners. According to a 2021 Reuters article, they have broken the promises that they made when taking power in Afghanistan. However, an empirical study conducted by ABD in 2009 showed that stable trade relationships could incentivise ruling authorities to become reliable international partners.

Second, and perhaps the strongest objection, is that the Taliban government systematically violates the human rights of the Afghan people. The Taliban did not safeguard women's rights as they had promised. For example, women can no longer attend university in Afghanistan (Reuters 2021).

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from: <https://www.kialo.com/should-western-countries-normalize-relations-with-the-taliban-government-in-afghanistan-60835?path=60835.0~60835.3>



### 6.1 Mapping Sample Essay 1

Work with your group using MindMup to map out the argument presented in Sample Essay 1.

#### 6.1.1 Sample Essay downloads

You can download the essay from the [Home Page](#).

### 7.1 Present the argument in the template

Although		
Because		
		Reuters 2021
However		
Also,		
Because,		
		Reuters 2021
And,		
Nevertheless,		
Because,		
		Marcetic 2022
And,		
And,		
And,		
Also,		
Because,		
		Hakimi & Price 2021
And,		



## 7.2 Massaging into readable text

Western countries should normalize relations with the Taliban government in Afghanistan. Although the Taliban government is not a reliable international partner and systematically violates the rights of the Afghan people, The West has a moral obligation to help rebuild Afghanistan as a functioning state and Western economic sanctions are crippling the Afghan economy.

*Short summary containing all high-level arguments. Obvious bridging claims omitted.*

The Taliban are not a reliable international partner because they have broken the promises they made when they took power, including the promise to respect civil rights even though they don't tolerate demonstrations against their rule. However, a stable trade relationship could incentivize the Taliban to become a more reliable trading partner.

*First high-level argument (objection), sub argument, evidence and rebuttal. Contains detail supporting claim in paragraph above.*

Also, the Taliban government systematically violates the rights of the Afghan people and the West should not have normal relations with these kinds of governments. Women's rights in particular have been violated as they can no longer even attend university in Afghanistan (Reuters 2021).

*Second high-level argument (objection), sub argument and evidence. Contains detail supporting claim in first paragraph.*

Nevertheless, Western economic sanctions are crippling the Afghan economy and normalizing relations would remove the sanctions. Sanctions imposed by the west have effectively stopped foreign aid into Afghanistan which accounts for 43% of it's GDP. In 2021 revenue from aid was was 4 times less than it was in 2020. (Marcetic 2022).

*Third high-level argument (reason) and bridging claim, sub argument and bridging claim, evidence. 'Western countries should not...' omitted because it's obvious.*

Finally, the West has a moral obligation to rebuild Afghanistan as a functioning state because much of the damage faced by Afghanistan has been caused by the West's nearly 20 year war with the country. More than 70,000 Afghan civilians have been killed since 2002 and unexploded ordinance continues to kill and maim civilians. (Hakimi & Price 2021). It is the West's moral responsibility to fix the damage the cause in war.

*Final high-level argument and supporting sub-argument + bridge.*

## **'Massaged CASE'**

Western countries should normalize relations with the Taliban government in Afghanistan. Although the Taliban government is not a reliable international partner and systematically violates the rights of the Afghan people, The West has a moral obligation to help rebuild Afghanistan as a functioning state and Western economic sanctions are crippling the Afghan economy.

The Taliban are not a reliable international partner because they have broken the promises they made when they took power, including the promise to respect civil rights even though they don't tolerate demonstrations against their rule. However, one empirical study indicated that stable trade relationship could incentivize the Taliban to become a more reliable trading partner (ADB 2009).

Also, the Taliban government systematically violates the rights of the Afghan people, and the West should not have normal relations with these kinds of governments. Women's rights in particular have been violated; a ban on women attending university being just one such example (Reuters 2021).

Nevertheless, Western economic sanctions are crippling the Afghan economy and normalizing relations would remove the sanctions. Sanctions imposed by the west have effectively stopped foreign aid into Afghanistan which accounts for 43% of it's GDP. In 2021 revenue from aid was 4 times less than it was in 2020. (Marcetic 2022).

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## **Original**

The world was shocked at the hasty and chaotic withdrawal of US troops in Afghanistan, which led to the Taliban assuming power and multiple countries closing their embassies in Kabul. Now there are opinions that West should normalise its relations with the Taliban.

There are two main reasons that are often cited in support of normalisation. The first is the West's moral obligation to help rebuild Afghanistan as a functioning state. More than 70,000 Afghan civilians have been killed since 2002 and unexploded ordinance continues to kill and main civilians (Hakimi & Price 2021). The west is responsible for this damage as they have been at war with the country for 20 years.

The second reason is that Western economic sanctions are crippling the Afghan economy. The economic sanctions imposed by the West stopped foreign aid into Afghanistan, which accounted for 43% of the countries GDP. Marcetic reports that in 2021, revenue from aid was 4 times less than it was in 2020 (Marcetic 2021)

There are objections to normalising relations as well. First, is that the Taliban have not proven that they are reliable international partners. According to a 2021 Reuters article, they have broken the promises that they made when taking power in Afghanistan. However, an empirical study conducted by ABD in 2009 showed that stable trade relationships could incentivise ruling authorities to become reliable international partners.

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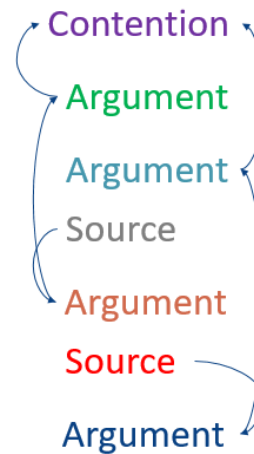
## 8 SOLUTIONS

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### 8.1 Session 1

#### 8.1.1 The case for nuclear power

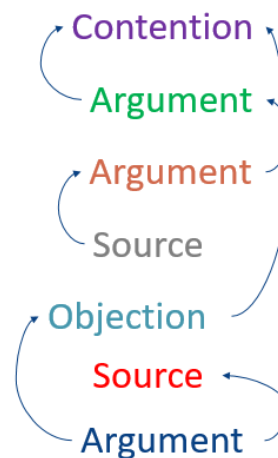
We should be building more nuclear power plants because nuclear power has very low greenhouse gas emissions and is one of the most reliable sources of electricity in the world. According to the IPPC, nuclear power has lower life-cycle CO2 equivalent emissions than solar PV. Also, according to the US Department of Energy, our 104 nuclear power plants operate on average more than 90% of the time.



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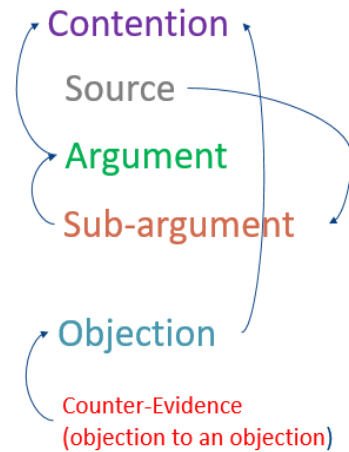


### 8.1.3 Sudden Oak Death

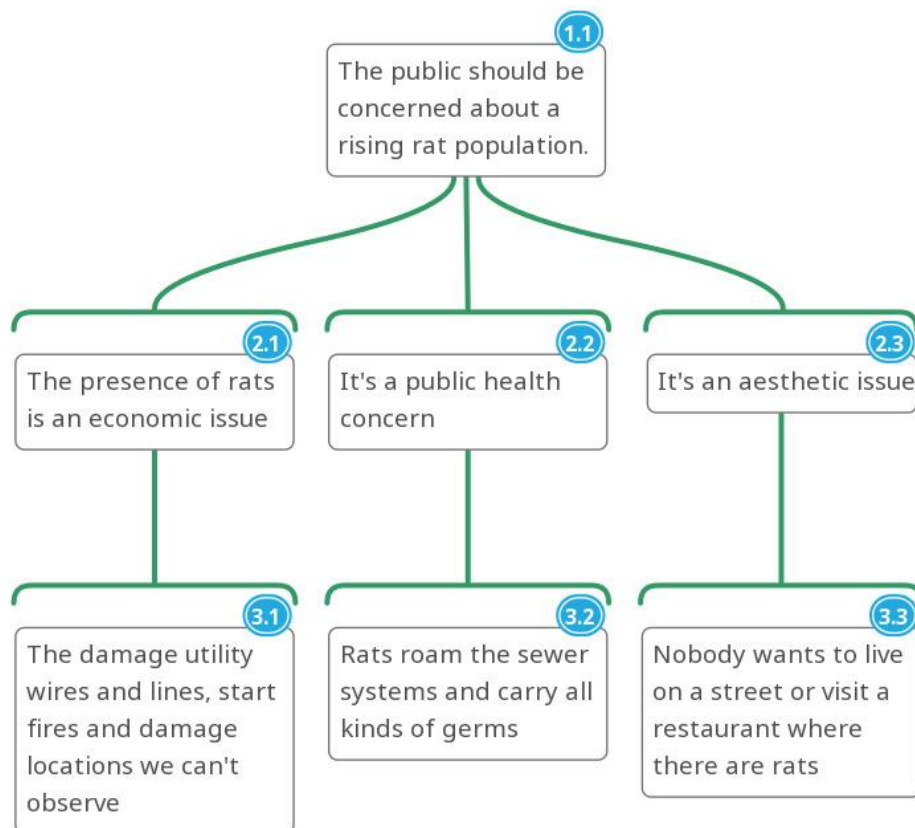
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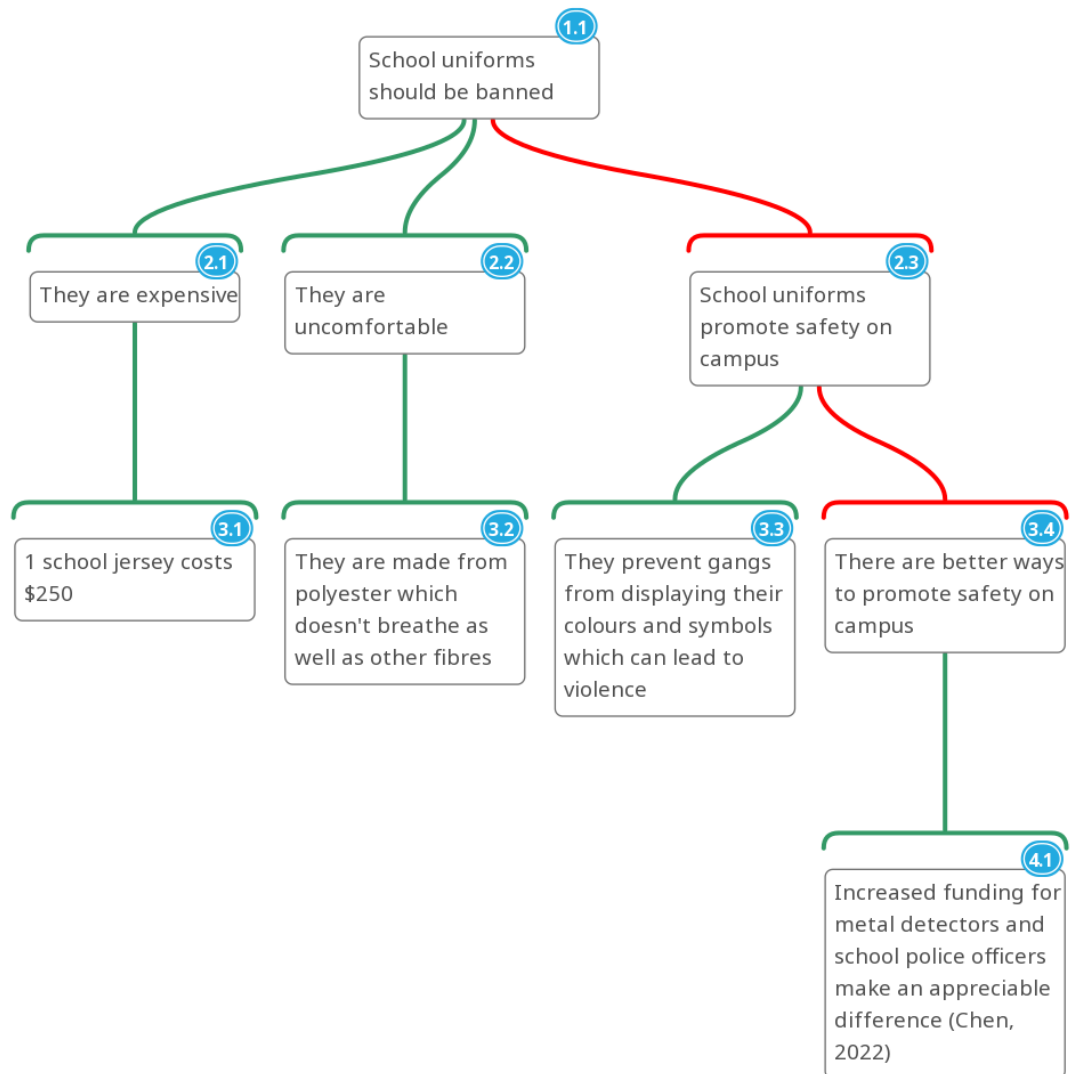
Some people think you could stop the spread of sudden oak death by going in and removing infected trees across a large area. However the study also found that an attempt to manage the problem by removing infected trees over 200 square kilometres annually, at a cost of \$ 100 million, would make little dent in this spread



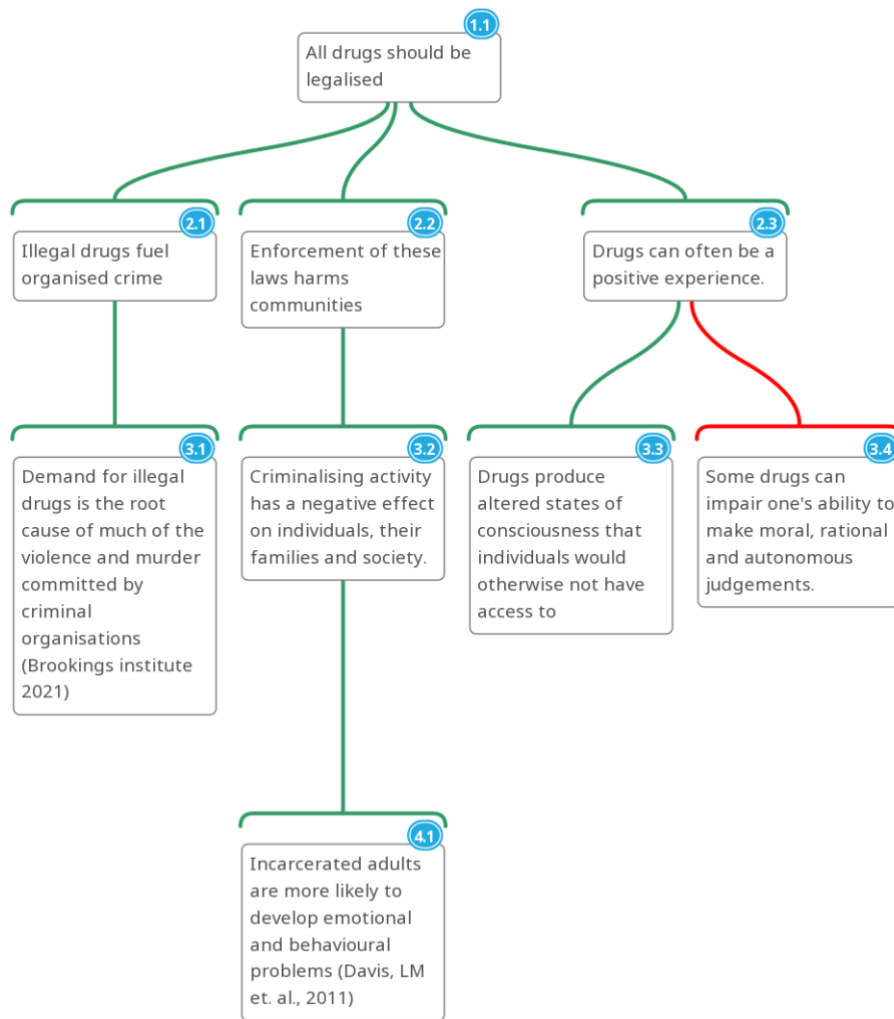
### 8.1.4 Rats



### 8.1.5 School Uniforms



## 8.1.6 Drug legalisation

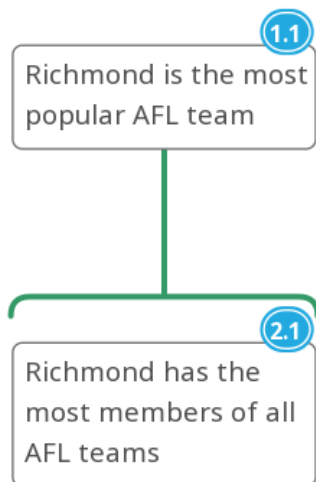


## 8.2 Session 2

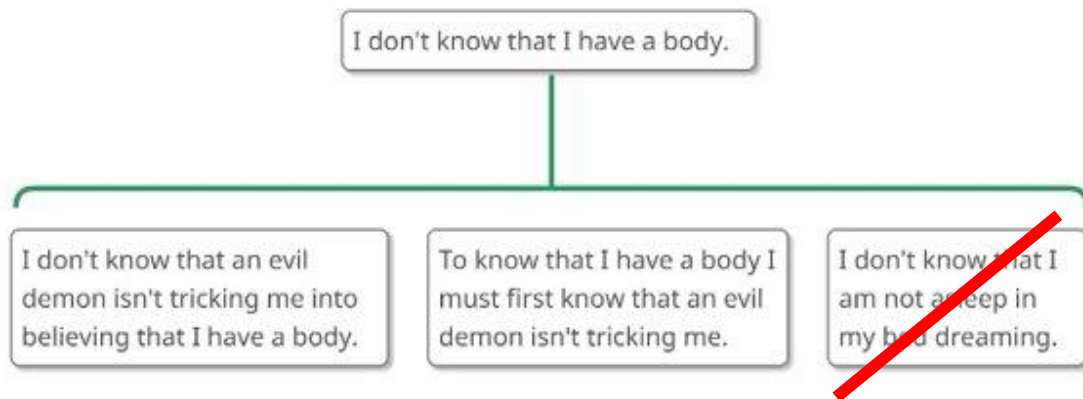
### 8.2.1 Be clear



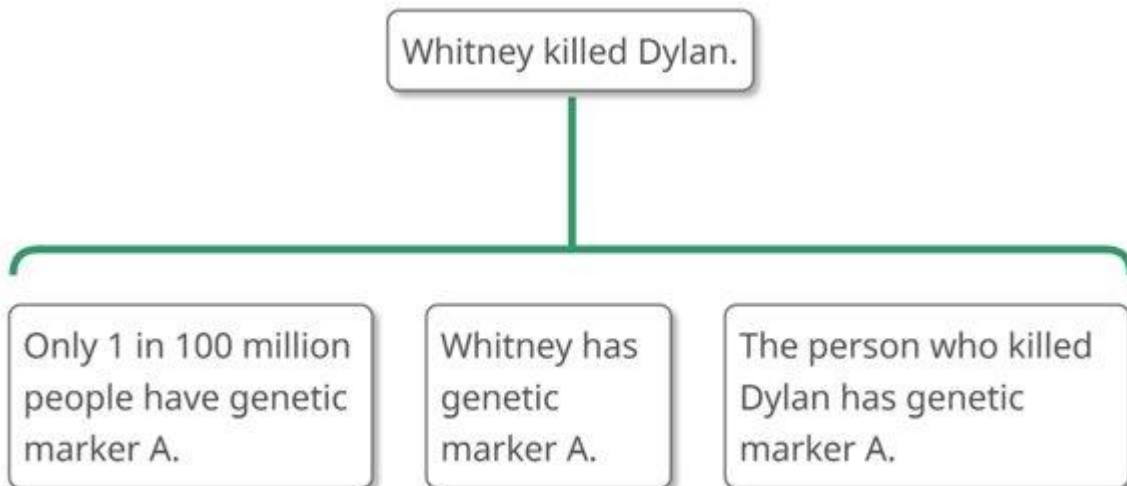
### 8.2.2 Exclude logical language



### 8.2.3 Eliminate danglers



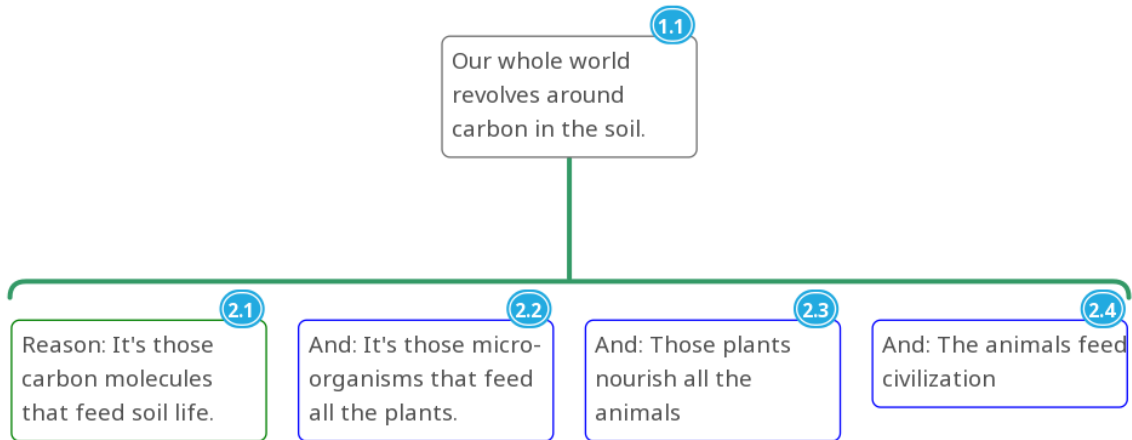
### 8.2.4 Place arguments in a single reason when they support a claim more strongly together than separately



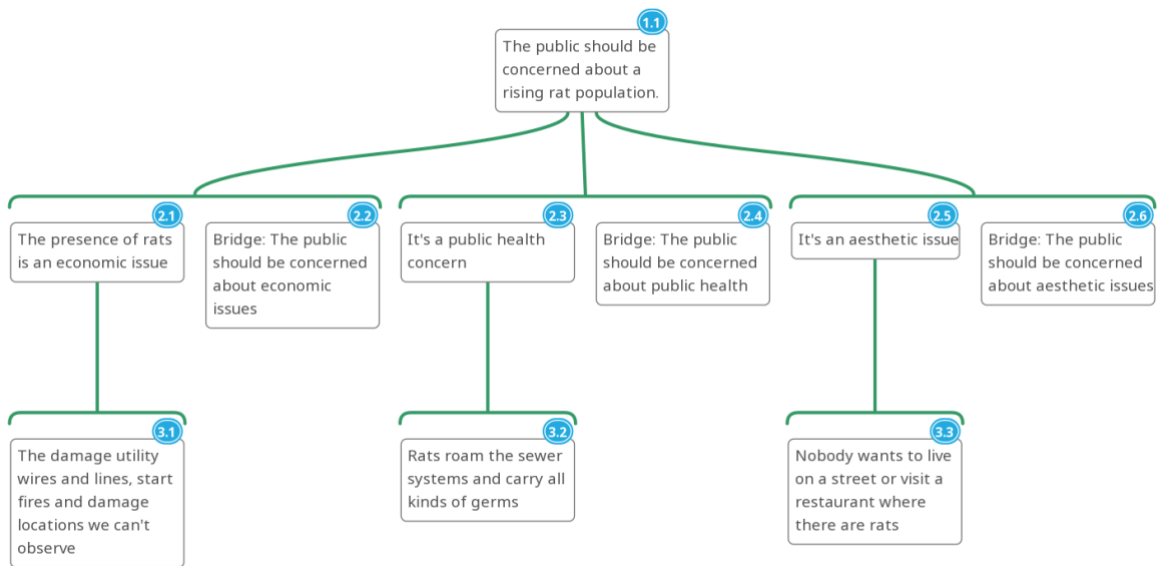


## 8.3 Session 3

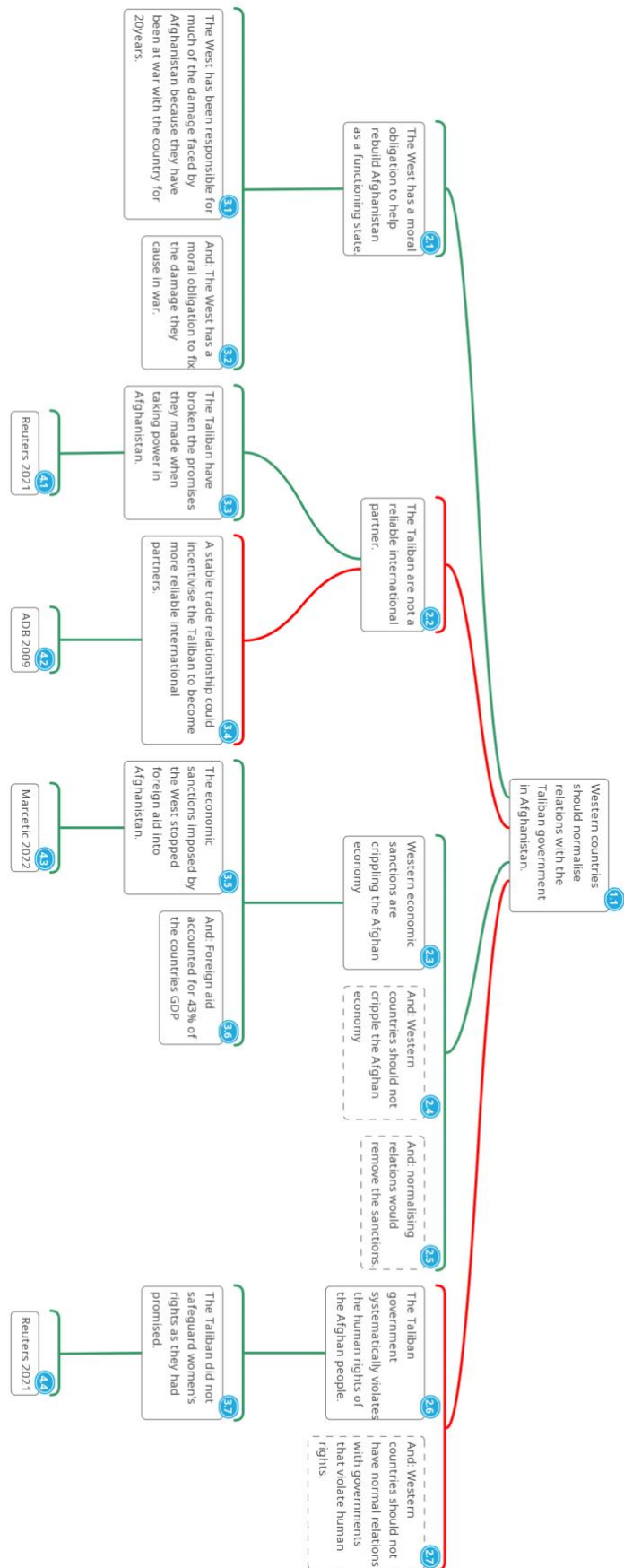
### 8.3.1 Soil Carbon Solution



### 8.3.2 Rats Revisited Solution

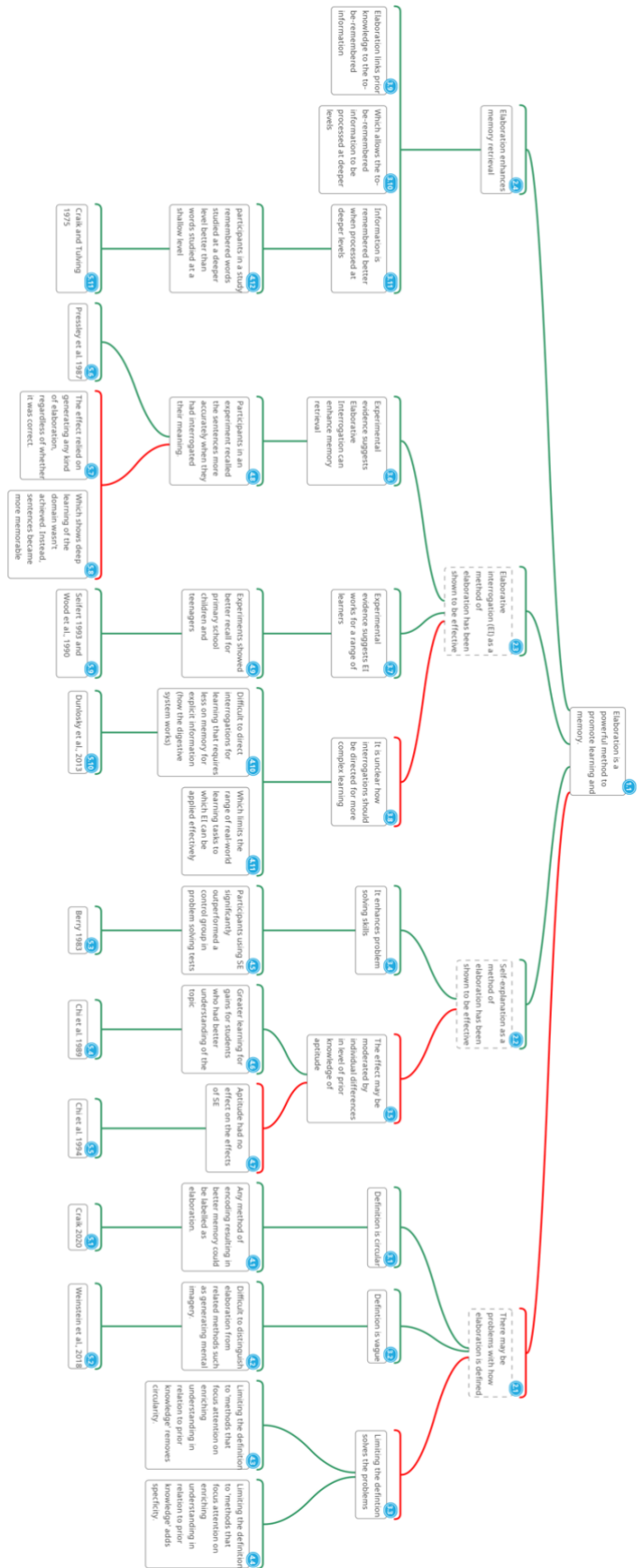


### 8.3.3 Normalising relations with Taliban solution



# 8.4 Session 4

## 8.4.1 Sample Essay 1 Argument Map



## 8.5 Session 5

### 8.5.1 Template of 'Normalising relations with the Taliban'

	Western countries should normalize relations with the Taliban government in Afghanistan.	
<b>Although</b>	The Taliban government is not a reliable international partner.	
<b>Because</b>	The Taliban have broken promises they made when taking power in Afghanistan.	
	They promised to respect civil right but don't tolerate demonstrations against their rule	Reuters 2021
<b>However</b>	A stable trade relationship could incentivize the Taliban to become more reliable international partners.	
<b>Also,</b>	The Taliban government systematically violates the rights of the Afghan people.	
<b>Because,</b>	The Taliban did not safeguard women's rights	
	Women can no longer attend university in Afghanistan.	Reuters 2021
<b>And,</b>	Western countries should not have normal relations with governments that violate human rights.	
<b>Nevertheless,</b>	Western economic sanctions are crippling the Afghan economy.	
<b>Because,</b>	The economic sanctions imposed by the West stopped foreign aid into Afghanistan.	
	Revenue from aid was 4 times less in 2021 than it was in 2020	Marcetic 2022
<b>And,</b>	Foreign aid accounted for 43% of the countries GDP	
<b>And,</b>	Normalizing relations would remove the sanctions	
<b>And,</b>	Western countries should not cripple the Afghan economy.	
<b>Also,</b>	The West has a moral obligation to help rebuild Afghanistan as a functioning state.	
<b>Because,</b>	The West has been responsible for much of the damage faced by Afghanistan because they have been at war with the country for 20years.	
	More than 70,000 Afghan civilians have been killed since 2021. Unexploded ordinance continues to kill and maim civilians.	Hakimi & Price 2021
<b>And,</b>	The West has a moral obligation to fix the damage they cause in war.	