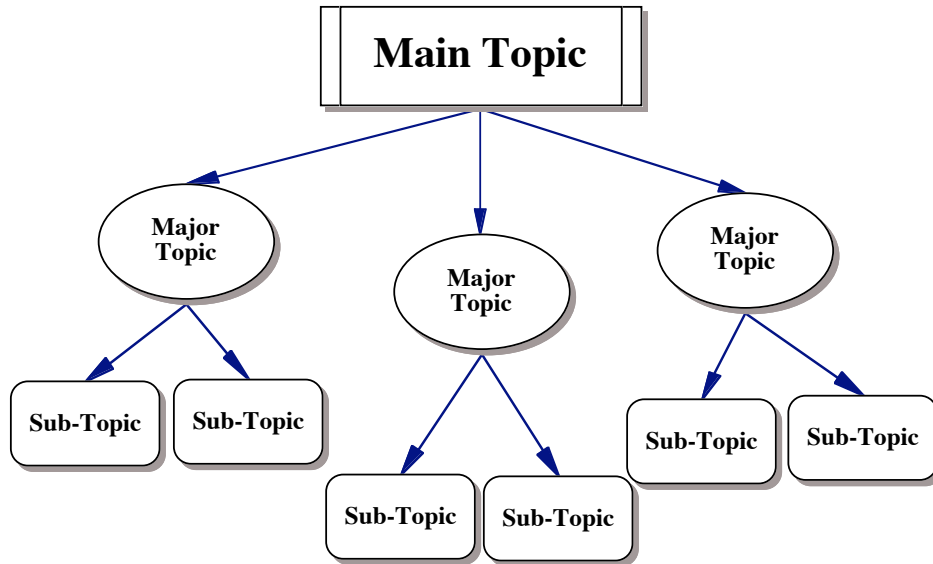# Creating a Top-Down Topic Web

The Keys to Literacy topic web provides a "big picture" in a visual format of information that must be learned through reading or listening.

The format for these topic webs is top-down, with the broadest ideas at the top. This format reinforces the hierarchical relationship between topics and sub-topics. The lower the topic is on the web, the more specific the information is. See the example below.

The topics are placed in different shapes (rectangles, circles, etc.); the shapes are used to emphasize different levels of topics and subtopics. It is important to arrange the shapes in a way that emphasizes these relationships (i.e., major topics should be placed at a similar level on the web). Arrows also help to illustrate how these ideas are related.

Finally, color can be used to emphasize the relationship between levels of topics, or to group major and sub-topics together that related. See the two examples below.