Grading rubric for the HIST 100 "Concept Map" assignment

	A	B	C	D	F
Ideas	Responds to the assignment with ideas that have not already been expressed fully in course texts or blog posts. Focuses on a topic of some scope and adequately represents the topic's complexity. Highlights cultural habits, beliefs, and/or values. Interesting, demonstrates sophistication of thought. The visualization and accompanying paragraphs have a clear central idea.	Responds to the assignment with ideas that are clearly derivative of those already expressed in detail in course texts or blog posts, but builds on them significantly. Focuses on a topic of some scope, but may not adequately represent the topic's complexity. Touches on habits, beliefs, and/or values. Interesting, but may lack some sophistication of thought. The visualization and accompanying paragraphs have a clear central idea.	Repeats ideas already expressed in detail in course texts and blog posts. May choose a topic that is too small or too big for productive exploration. Lacks complexity and/or sophistication of thought. May neglect consideration of habits, beliefs, and/or values. The visualization and paragraph may be vague, without an adequately focused central idea.	Uses ideas already expressed in detail in course texts and blog posts. Topic might be either too vague or too specific for productive exploration. May demonstrate misconceptions or rudimentary thinking. Fails to consider habits, beliefs, and/or values. May have inadequate focus on a central idea.	Does not respond adequately to the assignment. Lacks central idea. Incomprehensible.
Organization and coherence	Illustrates and synthesizes a concept relevant to at least two modules from Modules 4, 5, and 6. Information presented visually demonstrates highly logical structure, makes imaginative connections, or both.	Synthesizes a concept across two or more relevant modules. Structure is logical and connections demonstrate some imagination or depth of thought, but overall the assignment lacks the polished organization and coherence that comes from multiple revisions.	Does not adequately synthesize the concept across modules. May merely compare and contrast instead of forging a synthesized central idea. It may be clear that alternative ways of organizing would have been more productive.	Focuses on a concept related to only one course module. Organization of concepts is sufficiently unclear as to cloud the central idea of the visualization.	Central concept may be unclear or unrelated to course content. Unclear or sloppy organization.
Support	Provides specific details/evidence from course materials (or light additional research, where relevant). Uses evidence appropriately and effectively. Provides sufficient evidence and explanation to convince.	Provides specific details/evidence from course materials. Uses evidence appropriately and effectively in most cases. May be persuasive but not convincing.	Refers to evidence from course materials, but does not use it in ways that prove persuasive.	Uses evidence from course materials carelessly.	Lacks evidence from course materials.

Written style	The accompanying paragraphs are well written. They employ precise words and achieve an appropriate level of specificity. Sentences are varied, yet clearly structured and carefully focused. The paragraphs are almost entirely free of spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. It is clear both the paragraphs and visualization have undergone several intensive revisions.	The accompanying paragraphs are well written. For the most part, they use language precisely, but there may be a few awkward word choices or phrasings. There may be a few unobtrusive spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. It is clear both the paragraphs and visualization have undergone at least two revisions.	The writing is understandable but contains several spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors; these mistakes, however, do not get the way of the reader's understanding. The accompanying paragraphs may have undergone a single revision.	The text feels like a first draft. Written expression gets in the way of the reader understanding the ideas being expressed. Many errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar.	Sloppy all around. Written expression gets in the way of the reader understanding the ideas being expressed.