

## **Reflection to Support Evidence - Recipe for Supporting Online Learning**

### **Course Learning Outcome Satisfied:**

- Understand how to build rapport and manage groups

For this piece of evidence, I chose my recipe for supporting online learning. This evidence described the four main aspects of creating online courses as identified by Karen Kear; The Learner, The Content, The Tools / Technology, The Teacher.

In this activity, we were to choose a tool of our choice to represent our understanding of what the necessary pieces were for supporting an online learning community. I chose Mindmeister to create a mind map of my thoughts. As I put together the mind map, I was amazed at how much I was adding and how big it was getting. I realized that had I done this at the beginning of the course, I wouldn't have had near the same amount of information to add. The activities and seminars done throughout the course have deeply increased my knowledge and understanding of how an online course should be designed and facilitated so as to engage the learner and support them along their journey. This recipe activity was a great way to synthesize my learning around building thriving online communities and groups.

Understanding how to build rapport and manage groups is of critical importance in an online course. More than any environment, it is very easy to 'lose' your students without even knowing it if you don't manage the four aspects mentioned above well. It is important to have engaging activities that are short enough but still effective in order to allow the students to participate fully but still balance their extracurricular commitments. There needs to be teacher presence and mediation to create a community rapport among the group. Flexibility and manageable timelines are also important to the successful participation and engagement of the students.