

## Integrate Visual Tools Into Your Online Presentations

Engaging visuals help students understand complex relationships or patterns connected to key course concepts, principles, and/or ideas. Internet resources and software applications provide a multitude of options for instructors to integrate engaging visuals into their online presentations. Below are practices for integrating visual tools into your online presentations.

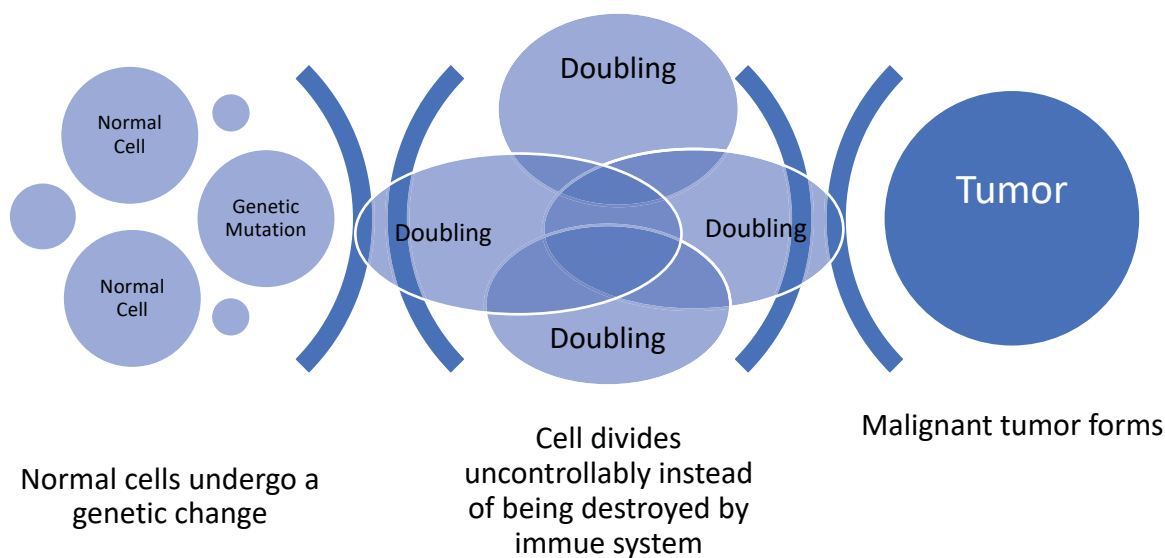
### Visual Images

Visual images not only make the presentation visually engaging, they can also enhance learning and retention (Nilson, 2010). Check with your educational technology department and library to find out if your school has a subscription to any digital image collections. You can also find free image collections online such as

- EveryStockPhoto: <http://www.everystockphoto.com/>
- Artstor’s Public Collections: <http://library.artstor.org/>
- Flickr Creative Commons: <https://www.flickr.com/creativecommons/>
- Public Domain Pictures: <https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/en/>

### Create Engaging Concept Maps With SmartArt

SmartArt, a tool integrated into PowerPoint, offers several customizable templates for visually demonstrating relationships between concepts, illustrating complex processes, or providing an overview of how topics or concepts fit together. Below is an example of a concept map made with SmartArt illustrating the process of cancer cell development.



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[Click here](#) to watch a YouTube video demonstrating how to create a concept map using SmartArt. Below are additional practices for using SmartArt to create concept maps.

**Animate graphics for emphasis.** Add animation to emphasize ideas or show information in phases as you offer explanations, which can help students more easily process information. [Click here for information on animating a SmartArt graphic.](#)

**Integrate engaging pictures.** Use photos to illustrate the relationship between concepts. SmartArt allows you to insert pictures with accompanying text.

**Provide a note-taking activity.** Copy your SmartArt concept map into a Word document to create a note-taking activity to accompany your microlecture. Leave the key points blank and ask students to fill in the information as they watch the video. This activity helps student process new content and improves learning.