

## Analysing concepts

Concepts are the source of all our understanding, our most effective means of interpreting experience and reducing the confusion of life.

### Closed and open concepts

- 1 Closed concepts are governed by complex sets of formal rules, while open concepts adapt to changing circumstances and experience.
- 2 Closed concepts structure the way we understand our experience, while open concepts are structured *by* it.

### Gathering typical examples

Ask yourself:

- How do I use the concept – do I use it in more than one way?
- What sort of thing am I referring to?
- How does it differ from similar things?

For more information, see *How to Write Your Literature Review*, Chapter 10.