

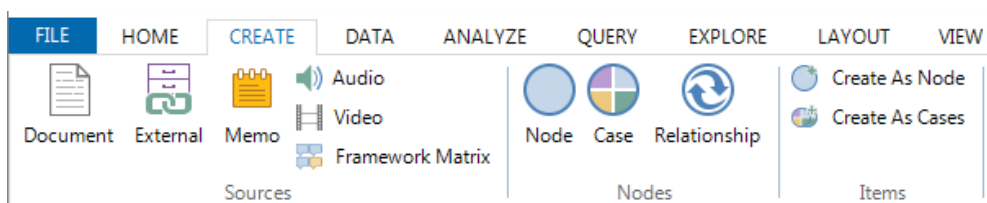


Working with nodes

Creating nodes

If you already know what themes you are looking for (based on your literature review, for example), you can create and organize your nodes before you start coding.

It's easy to create nodes using commands on the Ribbon—on the **Create** tab, in the **Nodes** group, click **Node**.



If you want to pre-design your node structure, you can quickly create nodes using a mind map. Refer to “Building maps” on page 46.

Alternatively, if you want to see what themes emerge from your sources, you can create nodes as you code. Refer to “Code at new or existing nodes” on page 31.

Creating node hierarchies

Organizing your nodes into a hierarchy is an important part of the analytical process, helping you to refine your thoughts and draw connections between themes.

Add ‘child’ nodes (sub-nodes) under an existing node to create a hierarchy. You can also drag & drop or cut & paste nodes to move them around.

As you code at the node, you can see the number of sources and references increase

Nodes				
Name		Sources	References	
Economy		15	225	
Agriculture		5	15	
Fishing or aquaculture		11	153	
Jobs and cost of living		7	49	
Tourism		4	6	

When the parent node has ‘aggregation’ turned on, any content coded at the child nodes is rolled-up into the parent node

See the NVivo Help for more information about customizing and displaying columns



Build an efficient node hierarchy

ideas

- Keep node names short and pertinent.
- Make sure a node only appears once in the whole hierarchy.
- Try not to combine concepts in a node. For example, instead of coding some text at skeptical attitudes about government policy, code it at both the node skeptical attitudes and government policy. Use queries to gather your coded content coded at multiple nodes.
- Try not to force nodes into a hierarchy—if a node is not related to any other concept then leave it at the top level.
- Try not to nest more than 3 levels deep if you can help it.
- Prune your nodes regularly. Merge, reorganize, rename. See the [NVivo Help](#) for more information.
- Create a memo and make notes about why you structured your nodes a particular way. If you change the structure later, explain why in your memo.