Tools for drawing tree diagrams

This short guide lists a few methods and particular pieces of software that you may find useful when drawing trees for your homework. Keep in mind, however, that it is not intended to be definitive; if you prefer to use some other method, fell free to do so.

First, there are a couple of on-line on line applications that require labelled bracket structure as input and produce relatively nice trees. Although the custom potions they offer are somewhat limited, they should be sufficient for the homework assignments of this course. Recommended applications are RSyntaxTree and the Syntax Tree Generator.

There are also downloadable programs which run on most platforms and do not require you to use labelled brackets; instead, you can create and edit trees in a graphical environment. Two examples are TreeForm and Trees. All the trees created by these software can be exported as an image and inserted into a document.

It is also possible to draw trees directly in Word; you can find a description of how to do that in this document. Keep in mind, though, that this method can become very complicated as trees grow larger, but it requires no additional software.

Finally, if you use LATEX to typeset your homework you might want to check out the qtree package available here.