

Research-Based Practice: Graphic Organizers

Research:

- Graphic organizers employ lines, circles, and boxes to form images to visually organize a hierarchy of information, portray cause and effect, compare and contrast information, and align information in a recurring or linear sequence (Ellis & Howard, 2007).
- Graphic organizers can reduce cognitive demands by providing a framework for students to create a visual representation of the most significant information in a text, which enhances comprehension (DiCecco & Gleason, 2002; Kim, Vaughn, Wanzek, & Wei, 2004; Manoli & Papadopoulou, 2012; Vaughn & Edmonds, 2006).
- During the prereading stage, graphic organizers can serve as a brainstorming tool to activate prior knowledge and to connect what students know with new information. During the reading stage, graphic organizers can help students arrange pertinent information, facilitating learning by highlighting links among concepts. In the postreading stage, graphic organizers can be used to assess comprehension, recall pertinent information, summarize main ideas, and maintain the content learned (Kim et al., 2004; Manoli & Papadopoulou, 2012)

Examples of Graphic Organizers (Singleton & Filce, 2015)

- Venn diagram: assists in making comparisons between the relationship and differences between concepts using two or more overlapping circles.
- Series of events chain: used to show the sequence of events in a passage, showing the continuous movement of events.
- Concept map or Spider Map: the topic is in the center with other relevant information that supports the topic branching out.
- Story map: helps visually display crucial information related to components of a story including the character(s), setting, and problem.
- Network tree map: main idea at the top with subtopics underneath
- Fishbone map: show the interaction and relationship of a complex event and the effects.
- Problem solution maps: help students summarize text, identify the problems that occurred within the text, recognize solutions used to solve the problem, and interpret the end results.

Citations

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