



WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

SPOT: Graphic Organizer

Mapping Your Way to Better Comprehension



What Are Graphic Organizers?

Graphic organizers are tools to help you organize your understanding and recall of important ideas in the area of vocabulary development and comprehension. They are also helpful when used in the planning process of writing.

Graphic Organizers help you focus on concepts and how they are connected to other concepts. They help you read to learn from informational text in the content areas and help you see how concepts fit common text structures. Graphic organizers are easily transferable across content areas and are part of the assessment and self-assessment process of learning.

Flood and Lapp (1988) use the term “mapping” generally to describe any materials that help you learn from texts. These include charts, graphs, maps, flowcharts, or other structures that help you to visualize the materials in texts. The terms graphic organizer and mapping are often used interchangeably to describe a similar instructional activity.

References:

Almasi, J. F. (2003). *Teaching strategic processes in reading*. New York: Guilford Press.

Flood, J. L., & Lapp, D. (1988). Conceptual mapping strategies for understanding information texts. *The Reading Teacher*, 41, 780-783.

Jetton, T. L. & Dole, J. A. (2004). *Adolescent literacy research and practice*. New York: Guilford Press.

