

READING Strategy → Graphic Organizers

Reading component

Comprehension

Overview of the strategy

Graphic organizers represent information visually in a clear, logical manner. Not only do they represent content information, but also the relationships that link ideas together. Graphic organizers help students store and recall information that assists in understanding what is read.

Strategy procedure

1. Explain the purpose and benefits of using graphic organizers. Tell students that using a visual organizer can aid in retention, comprehension, and recall of information.
2. Introduce a specific graphic organizer by describing its purpose (e.g., mind map – for brainstorming ideas about a topic) and its form (e.g., center circle with straight lines extending from it).
3. Explain and model how to use the organizer with familiar information, then with new information.
4. Have the students complete a graphic organizer in a whole group setting with familiar information before applying the organizer to new information.
5. Have students express their ideas about what they like about using the organizer and how they might adapt it for use in other contexts.
6. Provide opportunities for students to use the graphic organizer.
7. Encourage students to construct their own graphic organizers.

Source

- R. Billmeyer and M.L. Barton, *Teaching Reading in the Content Areas*. (Aurora, Colorado: McREL, 1998).