

LESSON 5: GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS



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INTRODUCTION

Graphic organizers are excellent tools for learning the structure of thinking skills. A graphic organizer provides a powerful visual picture of information and allows the mind “to see” patterns and relationships.

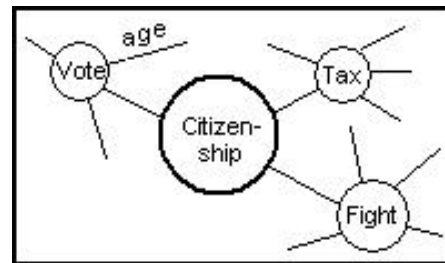
There are numerous types of organizers and each type represents a different thinking skill. We use them everyday in our lives. The most common example is the calendar. Using a calendar helps us to gather, sift, sort, and share information.

Graphic organizers can be categorized by the different thinking skills they utilize:

- Brainstorming/Associating
- Comparing/Prioritizing
- Analyzing/Comparing
- Sequencing/Visualizing
- Connecting/Reflecting

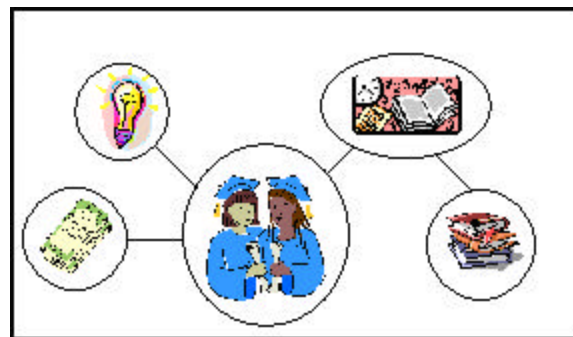
BRAINSTORMING/ASSOCIATING

Concept Web



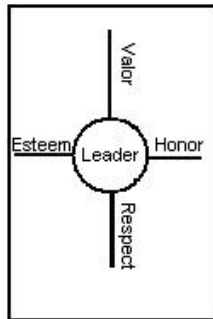
The center circle in a **Concept Web** represents a main concept or idea. The smaller circles connecting to the main concept represent the sub concepts; connected to these sub concepts are sub-sub concepts. For example, the center circle could be citizenship. The smaller connected circles are sub concepts related to citizenship. You can use these smaller circles to explore additional supporting concepts. An illustration might be the sub concept of voting as a critical part of citizenship.

Mind Map



The **Mind Map** is a form of brainstorming using a free-flowing documentation process where lines connect concepts to each other. The core subject is in the center; the main spokes are like sub parts of chapters. You can relate ideas by color codes, circles, or attached lines. You can also use pictures and words. You can use a Mind Map to organize thoughts, either of an individual or of a group, for preparing lesson plans, writing a book, planning a project, or giving a speech.

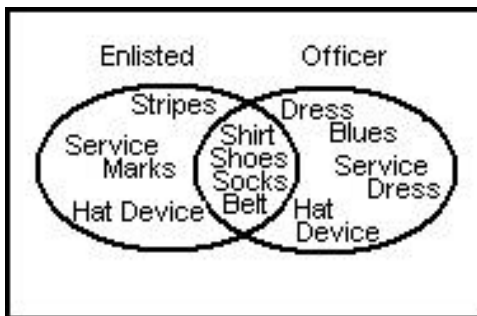
Sunshine Wheel



The center circle of the **Sunshine Wheel** represents the main idea and the lines extending out from the center circle represent the thoughts generated about the main idea. For example, the center circle could be leadership and the rays could be all the elements of leadership you can recall.

COMPARING/PRIORITIZING

Venn Diagram



The overlapping circles of a **Venn Diagram** are most useful for comparing and contrasting topics. The free parts of each circle contain the elements unique to each topic. The parts of the circle that overlap contain elements that are shared by each topic. For example, you could compare enlisted personnel with officers.

Analogy/Simile Chart

Patriotic music is like Rap
Because it: 1 evokes emotions 2 has strong beat 3 represents people
Visual Representation

An **Analogy Chart** is used to illustrate the thinking and organizing process that involves comparing one thing to another thing that initially seems unrelated. The benefit of the process comes from having to explore the connections and the critical elements. For example, you could compare what patriotic music has in common with rap music.

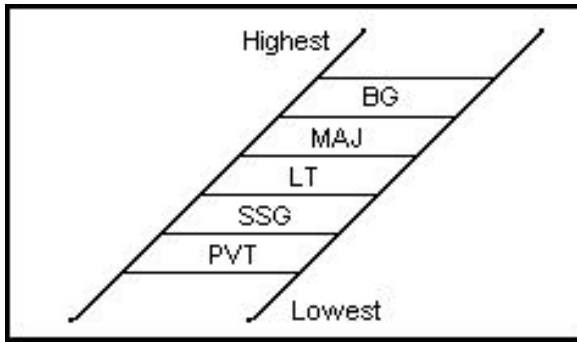
T-Chart

Poor Nutrition	
Problem	Solution
Eating junk food	Education

The possible headings for this two-column chart are limitless. Some suggested headings are "Before and After," "Pros and Cons," or "Cause and Effect." For example, you might use a **T-Chart** to brainstorm

solutions to problems associated with poor nutrition among teenagers. In the left column, identify the reasons why there exists poor nutrition among teenagers and in the right column brainstorm possible solutions.

Ranking Ladder



The rungs on the **Ranking Ladder** can represent priority or precedence, such as steps in a process, a hierarchy, position of components, relative importance of each data point, or status of individuals. For example, you might use a Ranking Ladder to prioritize ranks in the military.

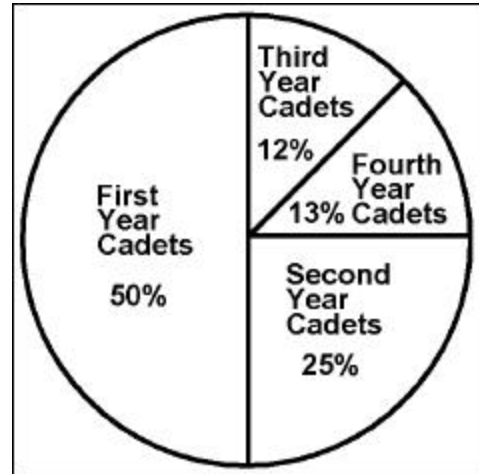
ANALYZING/COMPARING

Looks-Sounds-Feels

Looks	Sounds	Feel
Shiny	Squeak	Smooth
New	Quiet	Worn

Look-Sounds-Feels allows you to compare appearances, auditory expressions, and tactile characteristics of an element. For example, “What does a musical instrument look like, sound like, and feel like when being played?”

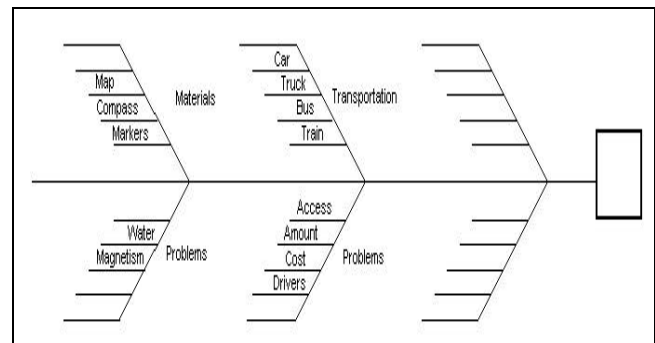
Pie Chart



Each segment of a circle in a **Pie Chart** represents a percentage or actual number of data points. For example, the pie could represent the total number of cadets in the JROTC program in a given high school. The relative size of each slice of the pie would represent the percentage of first, second, third, and fourth year cadets. Alternatively, each slice might represent the number of JROTC graduates that join a particular branch of the service.

SEQUENCING/VISUALIZING

Fishbone



The structure of a **Fishbone Chart** can help you think of important components of a problem to solve, an issue to explore, or a project to plan. The head of the fish represents

a problem, issue, or project. "Ribs" of the fish represent component parts of the problem and the related elements of each part. For example, you could explore how to prepare for an upcoming orienteering competition. Each rib represents the critical elements of preparation. Attached to each rib are the processes or activities that will assist in accomplishing each key element.

Matrix

Grades needed to earn next rank		S E P	O C T	N O V
Uniforms		80	90	90
Marching		75	85	90
Grades		80	85	90
Health		70	75	80
Respect		90	90	90

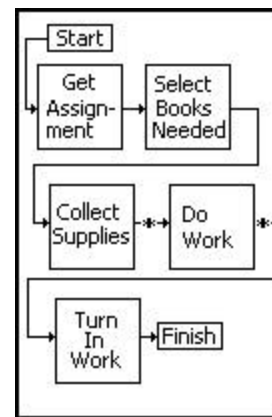
The **Matrix** tool is helpful to identify relationships and component pieces of an issue or data point. Intersecting horizontal and vertical lines create a grid used to classify and categorize related elements. For example, you could create a calendar matrix for accomplishing specific advancements. The vertical columns are labeled across the top by month. The horizontal columns are labeled down the left side by specific areas of advancement. The elements that must be met each month in order to achieve advancement are inside the grid.

Double T-Chart

Before	During	After
Sleep	Work	Play
Study	Test	Relax

The **Double T-Chart** is a three column chart that has three specific labels such as, "Before, During, After" or "Look, Sound, Feel" or "What, So What, Now What" or "High, Medium, Low" or any other concept that includes three distinct elements. For example, you could use a Double T Chart to plan a service-learning activity and label the three columns - Before, During, After.

Sequence Chart (Also known as Bridging Snapshots)



The connected boxes of a **Sequence Chart** show a progression, series, or succession of information. It does not focus on the priority or importance of information; rather it shows connections in the form of a timetable, cycle, or chain of events. For example, you could identify the activities necessary to complete a project.

CONNECTING/REFLECTING

KWL

K	W	L
When	How	Reason

This is another three-column chart. The specific labels for each column are "What do you *KNOW*?" "What do you *WANT* to know?" and "What have you *LEARNED*?" This is useful when you are faced with new or difficult information. For example, at the beginning of the unit on leadership, you might create a **KWL** chart for recording your responses to "What do you *KNOW* about leadership?" and "What do you *WANT* to know about leadership?" At the end of the unit, you can return to the chart and fill in the last column, "What have you *LEARNED* about leadership?"

KDL

K	D	L
Stand Erect	Slouch	Tension

The specific labels for each column in the three-column **KDL** chart are, "What do you *KNOW*?" "What do you *DO*?" and "What have you *LEARNED*?" You can use this graphic organizer to connect knowledge and behavior. For example, you *KNOW* to stand erect and still at "attention." You *DO* actually slouch at "attention" in formation. At the end of the unit, you *LEARN* to feel muscle tension

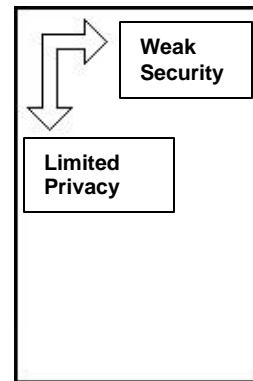
in specific areas to know when you are standing erect at "attention."

PMI

P	Learn an instrument
M	Long practices
I	Make new friends

You can use a **PMI** chart to evaluate the pluses and the minuses of a concept or idea and the interesting features of the concept. For example, "What is positive about joining the school band?" "What is negative about joining the school band?" and, "What are some interesting points about joining the school band?"

Right Angle Chart



You can use the **Right Angle Chart** to identify facts along the horizontal line and associate thoughts and feelings about the facts below the vertical line. This is most useful to help you to connect feelings to facts and reflect on how you might alter feelings based on the facts. For example, you can list facts about Internet security, and show some of the

concerns the American people have about Internet security.

CONCLUSION

Overall, graphic organizers allow you to visually organize concepts, ideas, data, thoughts, and feelings. Choosing the appropriate graphic organizer depends on the type of elements that need organizing and analyzing. Once the organization process is complete, understanding complex concepts, decision making, and problem solving becomes easier.