

Graphic Organizers and Concept Maps – Video Transcript (6:41)

Alright we are going to take a look at Graphic Organizers these are visual ways at organizing facts and ideas. There are many kinds out there and they all have different purposes. So we are going to take a look at a few and hopefully give you a better insight into how to use them. The purpose of using them is because all of our memories work different in the sense that we have different capacities and so we are going to try and improve our memory.

So here we have different categories we can compare people places and different items. So for example in History class if we are looking at different presidents in early America what we could do is use our top portion of our graphic organizers to put our presidents names and then on the side we could compare different characteristics such as big ideas, supporting facts or details and some vocabulary which would be good to look at all of them.

Ok so this could be used to look at formulas for math and science, you could put the steps for how to complete it and a specific example for studying purposes.

Here is for vocabulary whether it is for let's say English, Science or social studies and this is a little memory trick so you can have a cue you can use to call out when you need it.

Here is our typical Venn diagram where we put the things that are different about two objects on the outside and the similarities go right in the middle. Good for comparing and contrasting.

Here is a very simple very elementary school way of brainstorming for a topic or project and ending with different ideas or such.

Here we have bigger concept for a unit maybe in history or English and brief explanation of what it is a picture or diagram to give us a visual for that memory.

Here is a great example of a flash card where you can put the definition on the back and example of what it looks like and maybe a picture to memorize that. This is what a blank one would look like

Sometimes in science we have to do circular flow models to show different life cycles or different cycles in general and this can be used in a whole different host of issues.

Here we have cause and effect, problem solution, so just showing that link that connection or causation if you will.

Next we are going to compare two different things we put the two items up top and on the left side what is similar about them and on the right what is different. Similar to the Venn diagram.

Here is just kind of like a main idea and then we break it down into its component details and then any specific evidence to support that either from text, documentation, etc.

Ok these next few are steps for problems in math or science on how to complete something, this can be done even for just writing processes.

Concept Mapping

Our goal for using concept maps is to be able to correctly place terms in the appropriate categories on your concept maps organizer. It shows relationships and gives us the bigger picture of what we are learning about.

Here is a bunch of terms that maybe you pulled out from a unit you are learning. Here's an organization system so like economic political or foreign domestic or any major topics. Here is a full graphic or concept map would look like.

So how do we do one? Well we put a big idea in the center and then we come up with a few main topics that come out of that idea like social economic political farm relations, culture, art, architecture just bigger concepts and as we break it down is we go into more specific details.

Here is some of our basic ones, say history on President Adams. Now if we were going to do a more complete one we have the main idea which is the war of 1812 and the big idea would be the causes ok what caused this war? So we get into the actual causes.

Build relationships by giving us the key events of that war. What happened? What are the big things we need to know for that year?

Last but not least are the effects of the war? We build off the main effect. What is the outcome of this war? And once again we break it down in political, social, economic, and any other major concepts

Here is President Adams on before we filled out on the policy foreign affairs and broken down in to its most specific ideas.

Another one with President Jefferson and major terms and completely filled out.

Quick Reading Tips

Sometimes when we are reading a text book or any book, it gives us major titles usually bold bigger fonts sometimes in italics which shows us a new section or new idea. Try to pull up the main information about that. One way to do that is to look at the review questions of that unit. Here I'm looking at the Great Compromise, but where am I going to find it? Ah, there you go, I have a major heading.

Another thing is when we read we come across complex compound sentences which are very difficult to read at times because in order to hold all of that information it takes a lot of memory power, which some of us have difficulty with. So what I'm doing here is I'm breaking it down into different sections, what are the major ideas, major points that are made in this sentence? And then after I block off the major ideas from the sentence I'm going to then put them in a linear motion from top to bottom which lets me see each component separately so my brain can process that information and then I have a much greater chance of understanding it. Here I even put a question mark why was Great Britain mad? And then as I'm writing (although you can't see), one of the words I didn't understand was the word seize so I'm going to look it up on my iPad and it means to take and now I'll go in there and find that and it means that Great Britain was taking American ships and now I understand why they were mad. It makes sense. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtLqvkV3yl>