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“If I draw it,  
I might understand it”



**“If I draw it, I might understand it” - Pre-AP/AP Graphic Organizers for students that might save you teaching time.**

The amount of material for this workshop has become so massive that I simply cannot print all of the GOs (Graphic Organizers) that may be useful to teachers; therefore, the material (including this handout) has been moved to my web site at [www.jerrywbrown.com](http://www.jerrywbrown.com). Under [All Materials](#), you may click on either Graphic Organizers or Richardson (then locate *Draw it*).

This will be demonstrated in the workshop, and participants will be shown the material that is available. Hopefully, this method will prove more efficient than attempting to print the material.

### **WHY USE GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS?**

...The learning assumption behind the instructional use of GOs for reading development is that students need consistent exposure to and practice with GOs. Repetition in the form of GOs, reflecting a set of basic knowledge structures conveyed through discourse organization, should allow students to recognize discourse structure in new texts and apply this knowledge to reading comprehension. The extended time should allow for the consistent repetition of general patterns, leading to useful learning transfer effects.

#### **Graphic organizers in reading instruction: Research findings and issues**

Xiangying Jiang and William Grabe  
Northern Arizona University  
United States

There is solid evidence for the effectiveness of graphic organizers in facilitating learning. Ten of the 12 studies investigating effects of graphic organizer use on learning reviewed here reported some positive learning outcome.

#### **Prepared by Tracey Hall & Nicole Strangman National Center on Accessing the General Curriculum**

Our examination of the effects of graphic organizers on the reading comprehension of students with LD revealed overall beneficial outcomes across the studies. In general, our findings support the use of semantic organizers, cognitive maps with and without mnemonics, and framed outlines to promote these students' reading comprehension. Across the board, when the students were taught to use graphic organizers, large effect sizes were demonstrated on researcher-developed reading comprehension posttests. Thus, visual displays of information such as those provided by graphic organizers enhance the reading comprehension of students with LD, possibly by helping these students organize the verbal information and thereby improving their recall of it.

**Graphic Organizers and Their Effects on the Reading Comprehension of Students with LD:  
A Synthesis of Research** Ae-Hwa Kim, Sharon Vaughn, Jeanne Wanzek, and Shangjin Wei

The following is taken from “Mini-Grant Graphic Organizers and How to Use Them” by Robin C. Letendre, M.Ed., Reading Specialist, Learning Disabilities Consultant  
[http://www.nhadulted.org/grants/AC3graphic\\_organizers.pdf](http://www.nhadulted.org/grants/AC3graphic_organizers.pdf)

...Graphic organizers have the ability to “help your students classify ideas and communicate more effectively. Use graphic organizers within the class to structure writing projects, to help in problem solving, decision making, studying, planning research and brainstorming.”  
<http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/>

Graphic organizers are valuable tools for teaching and instruction. Unlike other teaching strategies, graphic organizers demonstrate a flexibility and endlessness in choices of use. [original not in bold face] **common trait to graphic organizers is their ability to show the order and completeness of the student's thought process.** The teacher is able to see how the student understands the topic and this becomes clearly evident to the teacher and student when using graphic organizers. Using a range of graphic organizers shows both the close-up and the larger picture. Since many graphic organizers use short words or phrases, they are ideal for many types of learners including those for who English is a second language, and also for students with learning disabilities. <http://www.graphic.org/goindex.html>

When used effectively, graphic organizers have the potential to foster learning in a number of areas. Chief among these are reading, comprehension, and vocabulary knowledge. Studies have indicated the ability of graphic organizers to substantially improve reading and vocabulary knowledge. [original not in bold face] **Because the student is not merely reading a bunch of words but learning to understand the importance, or lack thereof, of particular concepts, and specific vocabulary words, the student is able to sift through the maze of words and attain better clarity.** The student is able to understand the concept behind what he or she is reading, and is able to isolate text that is not important. This helps the student determine a main idea and build an entire story from there. This in turn boosts reading and writing skills and is especially beneficial to students writing an essay. It helps them structure essential ideas while eliminating non-essential ones. Vocabulary knowledge and comprehension skills have also been found to increase significantly after the use of these visual learning tools, also known as graphic organizers. (<http://www.graphic.org/organizers/1.html>)

According to research, the main reasons to use graphic organizers within the classroom setting are: [original not in bold face]

- **To articulate the relationships between concepts outlined in the graphic organizer.**
- **To encourage students to contribute their ideas.**
- **To establish a connection between the material being learned and past learning.**
- **To refer to up coming material.**
- **To encourage structural analysis.**

<http://www.graphic.org/organizers/1.html>

There is also a strong research base that supports the use of graphic organizers with students with learning disabilities. This is a proven method to help students with learning disabilities communicate ideas, show organization of concepts, show spatial agreement as well as reduce literacy demands. (National Institute for Literacy, Learning to Achieve Training) There are three main reasons why teachers would use graphic organizers according to research collected by the National Institute for Literacy, or NIFL.

[original not in bold face]**The three main reasons for using graphic organizers are:**

- 1. That graphic organizers can increase content knowledge because important information is presented clearly and precisely**
- 2. That graphic organizers combine showing with telling. Graphic organizers decrease literacy demands while structuring higher order thinking**
- 3. That graphic organizers can be used flexibly.**

According to research, graphic organizers have the potential for facilitating content learning as well. In using graphic organizers for content area teaching, graphic organizers help the teacher in explicit instruction. [original not in bold face] **Graphic organizers allow the teacher to provide clear explanations of the material, model the learning process by completing the graphic organizer with the class, and engage in a scaffolded process. A scaffolded process occurs when the teacher leads, shows the student what to do, and then lets the student do the work. Along this scaffolded process, feedback is provided to the student about the material being presented and the understanding of the concepts presented within the graphic organizer.** (National Institute for Literacy, Learning to Achieve Training)

#### **VARIOUS WEB SITES WITH GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS/VISIBLE THINKING**

<http://www.graphic.org/downloads/GraphicOrganizers.ppt>

**About:** Free graphic organizers in Microsoft PowerPoint format (.ppt).

**What's available:** Limited organizers but includes Venn Diagram, Compare/Contrast, Webbing, Circular Type Web, Story Map, Time Lines.

Made publicly available with no explicit copyright mentioned, **presumed free to use**

<http://freeology.com/graphicorgs/>

**About:** Free printable graphic organizers in .pdf format (Adobe Acrobat reader required) spread out over six pages with thumbnails. Printed on each page is space for "Name", "Date" and Period. Copyright marked on each copy.

**What's available:** Organizers offered include Venn Diagram, Column Venn Diagram, Triple Venn Diagram, Character Study, Pros and Cons Scale, SQ3R, Thematic Web, KWL, Cornell Note Taker, Storyboard, Story Plot Graph, Story Plot Terms, Apple Gram, Poetry Terms Practice, Note Taker, Fish Story, Cause / Effect, Characterization, I AM Poem, Dialectical Journal, Hamburger, Bookmark, Vocabulary Card, Give'em a Hand, Pyramid, Inverted Pyramid, Concrete Detail - Commentary, Ladder, Timeline, Christmas Tree, Fish Bones, Flowchart, KWLH, Story Web, Chain of Events, Cloud Sequence, Clock, Double Bubble, Characterization Form, Process Grid and Hear T-Graph.

**Free to download and use**

<http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/>

**About:** Free printable graphic organizers in .pdf format again. No thumbnails - just the following categories to choose from. Each link opens one .pdf. Printed on each page is space for "Name" and "Date". Copyright marked.

**What's available:** Clock, Cluster/Word Web 1, Cluster/Word Web 2, Cluster/Word Web 3, Describing Wheel, E-Chart, Fact and Opinion, Five W's Chart, Flow Chart, Four-Column Chart, Garden Gate, Goal-Reasons Web, Ice-Cream Cone, Idea Rake, Idea Wheel, Inverted Triangle, ISP Chart (Information, Sources, Page), KWL Chart, KWS Chart, Ladder, Observation Chart, Persuasion Map, Planning Chart, Problem-Solution Chart, Sandwich, Sense Chart, Sequence Chart, Spider Map, Step-by-Step Chart, Story Map 1, Story Map 2, Story Map 3, T-Chart, Ticktacktoe, Time Line, Time-Order Chart, Tree Chart, Venn Diagram

**Free for schools to download and use**

<http://my.hrw.com/nsmedia/intgos/html/igo.htm>

**About:** Free printable graphic organizers in .pdf format. With thumbnails. .pdfs include space for Name and Date. Each .pdf comes with teaching notes (but these are accessible only from [http://my.hrw.com/nsmedia/intgos/html/igo\\_lessons.htm](http://my.hrw.com/nsmedia/intgos/html/igo_lessons.htm) and not integrated into the .pdf).

**What's available:** Cluster Diagram, Freeform Web, Web Diagram, Sensory Details Chart, Circle Diagram, Spider Map, Main Idea and Details Chart, Determining Main Idea Chart, Drawing Conclusions from Information Chart, Conclusions Chart, Flow Chart, Sequence Chain, Sequence

Chart, Rank Order Chart, Comparison Contrast Chart, Cause and Effect Chart, Cause and Effect Chain, Cause and Effect Diagram, What if Chart, Venn Diagram, Process or Cycle Chart, Process or Cycle Diagram, How To Essay Organizer, Concept/Event Map, Evaluation Pyramid, Evaluation Organizer, Positive-Negative Chart, Decision Chart, Persuasive Planner, Controversial Issue, Supporting a Position, Fishbone Planner, Personal Thesaurus Diagram, Word Map, All Purpose Planner, KWL Chart, Tree Diagram.

**Free to use**

[http://www.educationoasis.com/curriculum/graphic\\_organizers.htm](http://www.educationoasis.com/curriculum/graphic_organizers.htm)

**About:** 58 pdf organizers with thumbnails.

**What's available:** 11 Cause and Effect Organizers; 17 Character and Story Organizers; 6 Compare and Contrast Organizers; 7 Sequence, Cycle, Timeline and Chain of Events Organizers and 5 Vocabulary Development and Concept Organizers.

**Free to use**

<http://makingeducationfun.wordpress.com/2012/03/28/graphic-organizers/>

**Research-Based Education Strategies and Methods**

**About:** This web site contains the most common types of graphic organizers; their uses (before, during, and after lessons); various content areas; suggestions for using the organizers; the benefits and negatives; video examples of teachers using various organizers; a brief discussion of multiple intelligences/learning styles; how to choose the best organizer; and references to research.

**Free to use**

<http://www.studenthandouts.com/graphicorganizers.htm>

**About:** Free Printable Graphic Organizer Worksheets for Teachers - Browse Their Selection and Click on Your Choice

**Free to Print**

<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/graphic-organizers/printable/6293.html>

**About:** A collection of ready-to-use graphic organizers to help children classify ideas and communicate more effectively. The printable graphic organizers are designed to facilitate

understanding of key concepts by allowing students to visually identify key points and ideas. Also have blank printable templates like graph paper, dot arrays, and other useful tools.

**Free to print mostly.** Sometimes when you start to print an ad will pop up to ask you to join “TeacherVision”, but you can usually just click past this. It’s just annoying.

[http://www.teacherfiles.com/resources\\_organizers.htm](http://www.teacherfiles.com/resources_organizers.htm)

**About:** A variety of graphic organizers to help your students communicate their comprehension of text.

**What’s available:** Basic story map, Cause and effect, Character connections, Character grid, Character ID, Concept Map, Questioning Tower, Super six, Character web, Just the facts, KWL, Making connections, Photo scrapbook, Plot graph, Story map, Thumbs up down

**Free to print**

[http://www.old-pz.gse.harvard.edu/vt/VisibleThinking\\_html\\_files/VisibleThinking1.html](http://www.old-pz.gse.harvard.edu/vt/VisibleThinking_html_files/VisibleThinking1.html)

**Purpose and Goals:**

Visible Thinking is a flexible and systematic research-based approach to integrating the development of students' thinking with content learning across subject matters. An extensive and adaptable collection of practices, Visible Thinking has a double goal: on the one hand, to cultivate students' thinking skills and dispositions, and, on the other, to deepen content learning. By thinking dispositions, we mean curiosity, concern for truth and understanding, a creative mindset, not just being skilled but also alert to thinking and learning opportunities and eager to take them