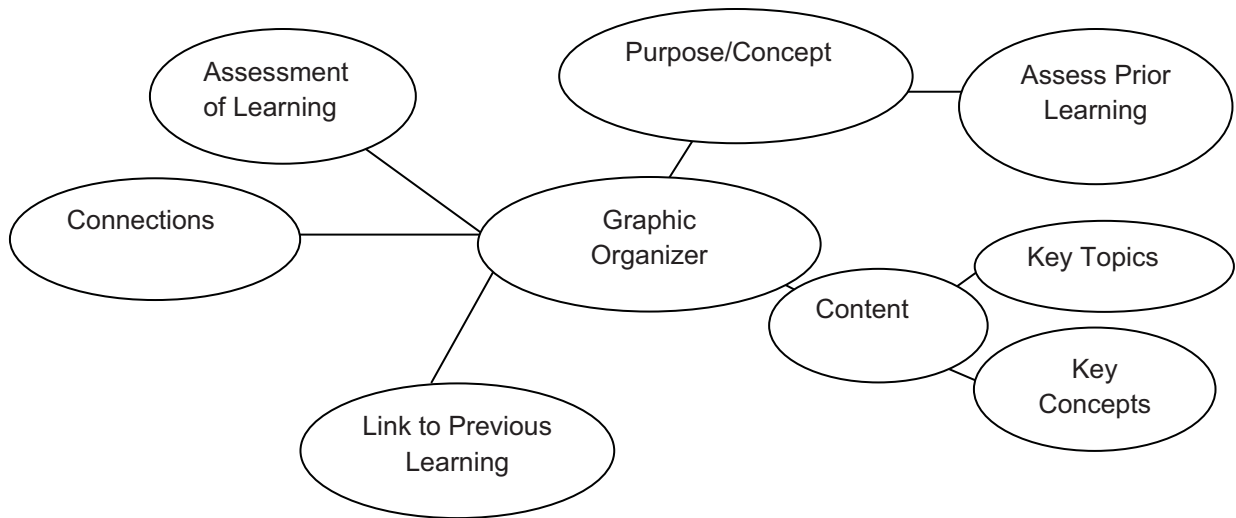


Using Graphic Organizers

A Learning Tool to Deepen Understanding

Purpose

Graphic organizers are visual displays that can be used in a variety of ways: organize information or ideas, make connections, draw comparisons, present key concepts, and explain complex topics. Examples of graphic organizers include Venn diagrams, semantic webs, genealogy trees, organization charts, and tree diagrams. The following is a sample of a graphic organizer:



Intent

A graphic organizer is a learning tool based in cognitive theory and schema theory used to assist in both new learning and learning retention. The graphic organizer helps students to link new information to their current knowledge base. Graphic organizers promote creativity and can be used to compare stories, thoughts, and ideas; explain key concepts and components in an area of study; and organize the main ideas of a chapter.



Method

- Select information you want the students to learn.
- Inform the students about the topic by presenting the information, or have the students research the topic.
- Choose key topics or concepts important for student learning.
- Choose what type of graphic organizer you want the students to use.
- Present information to the students about graphic organizers using examples to help the students understand the parameters of the assignment.
- Invite the students to create a graphic organizer using the essential topics or concepts you have assigned, and indicate the connections for learning the new information.

Conclusion

Graphic organizers can be a key component to aid in the students' understanding of a topic or concept. Graphic organizers help the students to classify, organize, and communicate effectively. The students can use this method to organize information and thoughts for understanding, remembering, and writing and to link new information to their current knowledge base.

