



Friday Focus

Carter County Schools

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Using Graphic Organizers

For today's classroom, nothing is more essential to successful teaching and learning than strategy-based instruction. It is through the use of specific teaching strategies and learning tools that students can be more successful learners. Graphic organizers are teaching and learning tools; when they're integrated into classroom experiences, students are better able to understand new material. Creating a strong visual picture, graphic organizers support students by enabling them to literally see connections and relationships between facts, information, and terms.

By integrating text and visual imagery, graphic organizers actively engage a wide variety of learners, including students with special needs and English language learners.

Graphic organizers can be used for any subject matter and are easily integrated into course curriculum.

Advantages of Graphic Organizers

Content easier to understand and learn

Information is more "precise", less "fuzzy"

Helps students separate what is important from not essential information.

Reduced information processing demands

Don't need to process as much semantic information to understand the information.

Easier to understand info if its structure is readily apparent

As a result, content can be addressed at more sophisticated or complex levels

Students become more strategic learners

Reading and writing skills

Communication skills

Analytical, critical, and creative thinking skills

We know from learning theory that the human mind naturally organizes and stores information. Our minds create structures to store newly acquired information and connect it to previous knowledge. Graphic organizers are visualizations of these mental storage systems, and serve to support students in remembering and connecting information.

When students are able to remember and assimilate information, they can delve into more critical thinking.

What's Happening?

- March 20 TCES Academy
- March 21 ACT Test
- March 21 WCMS Academy
- March 22 WCHS Academy

Inside this issue:

[Research on Graphic Organizers](#)

[Graphic Organizers from Television](#)

[Graphic Organizers for Education](#)

[Interactive Graphic Organizers](#)

Spotlight on Excellence

K.W. Sexton's students at Star Elementary are shown engaged in completing an ERT in their small group reading center this week. "Everyone Read To...find out or figure out" is a great strategy for giving children a purpose for reading. Another organizational tool that Mr. Sexton uses at each station is a BDA sheet. On this page, he lists what students are accountable for completing Before, During, and After reading the text that day at that center. This way, every child is clearly focused on the purpose and sequence of activities for their reading, as well as how each piece fits together in the lesson of the day.

