GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Overview:

A graphic organizer is a way of visually representing ideas. Venn diagrams and concept maps, which many students recognize, are two kinds of graphic organizers. Graphic organizers help students organize their thinking. Graphic organizers can be powerful teaching tools. They help students relate complex concepts, identify existing knowledge and gaps in knowledge, and share their ideas more effectively.

Learning Objectives:

- Recognize different kinds of graphic organizers.
- Practice using graphic organizers.

Activity:

- Provide a mini-lecture on graphic organizers and their uses. Discuss ways in which they might be helpful to students.
- As a whole group or in teams, select a concept that has been challenging for students in the course. Pick a graphic organizer from the handout and plot the concept according to the structure of the graphic organizer. (An instructor’s copy of the handout is provided on page 2).
- Try out two or three different graphic organizers to see if they change how team members interpret the concept.
- As a group, discuss the results of this exercise and the pros/cons of each kind of organizer.
More inspiration:

There are many online tools to help students create graphic organizers. Check out RealTimeBoard at https://realtimeboard.com, which has many starting templates for students.

Copy of the handout:

Examples of Graphic Organizers:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WORD</td>
<td>Lightbulb word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definition</td>
<td>Picture/example</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Venn Diagram
- Four Square

- Main idea
- Key questions

- Key words & ideas
- Important dates/people
- Repeated info
- Stories, formulas, diagrams

Summary of the notes in your own words

Cornell Note-taking Method

Concept Maps
Frayer Model