

INSTRUCTION PLANNER: USING GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS FOR READING COMPREHENSION

Purpose	A curriculum coach may use this planning tool to facilitate a workshop with teachers. Teachers will consider how graphic organizers can help students use comprehension strategies with different types of texts by engaging in a self-reflection, sharing a graphic organizer, and viewing and discussing a video and slideshow.
Materials	Laptop and projector. Teachers select one or more graphic organizers that they use, or are thinking of using, and bring to the workshop.
Media	<i>I Do, We Do, You Do: Scaffolding Reading Comprehension in Social Studies</i> , video of sixth grade teacher at KIPP San Francisco Bay Academy (6:16)
Sample Materials	<i>Graphic Organizer Examples</i> , a variety of graphic organizers.
Topic	Adolescent Literacy
Practice	Comprehension Strategies

Using Graphic Organizers for Reading Comprehension

Part I. Evaluate current use of graphic organizers

Participants should use this table to reflect on their current teaching and use of graphic organizers and rate the frequency that they engage in each practice. Based on their responses, have participants answer the following questions:

- What conclusions do you draw about your use of graphic organizers to facilitate reading comprehension?
- What are two or three ways your comprehension strategy instruction could be improved?

SAMPLE

Using Graphic Organizers	Often	Some-times	Never
Current Practice			
I teach specific reading comprehension strategies.			
I use graphic organizers with my students to facilitate reading comprehension.			
Selecting and Modeling Graphic Organizers			
I am familiar with several different types of graphic organizers.			
I use different graphic organizers depending on the type of text we are reading in class.			
I think carefully about selecting an appropriate text to model the use of graphic organizers.			
I show students how to use graphic organizers with different types of texts (narrative, expository newspaper articles, essays, speeches, websites, novels, biographies, chapters in the textbook, letters).			
I narrate for students what I am thinking as I read a text and fill in a graphic organizer. (Thinkaloud)			
Guided Practice			
My lessons include opportunities for students to work in pairs or groups to practice using graphic organizers.			
I provide opportunities for students to reflect on what they have read using graphic organizers.			
I use graphic organizers to help students ask questions and discuss texts.			
I use graphic organizers to assess whether students have understood the main ideas of a text.			
My classroom environment contains displays of the graphic organizers we have used in class.			
I see improvement in student understanding of the reading after using graphic organizers.			

Part II. Sharing graphic organizers in small groups by content area and/or grade level

Participants should bring to the workshop a graphic organizer they have used or are considering using in teaching.

In small groups have participants share the graphic organizer they brought, explain how they have used (or are planning to use) it, and describe the text and lesson plan.

(*Option:* If participants did not bring a graphic organizer, have them examine the *Graphic Organizer Examples* sample material from DWW and select one or two organizers that they could use in class.)

Have each small group engage in a discussion about their chosen graphic organizer in which participants address the following:

- a. Explain their thinking about what text(s) the graphic organizer would work well with.
- b. Describe the comprehension strategies used in completing the graphic organizer.
- c. Explain how they will model using this graphic organizer.
- d. Discuss as a group: What are the strengths and weaknesses of the graphic organizer?

Part III. Viewing media items

I Do, We Do, You Do: Scaffolding Reading Comprehension in Social Studies, video of sixth grade teacher at KIPP San Francisco Bay Academy

After viewing the media piece, have participants break into pairs to discuss new thoughts, ideas, or understandings about the use of graphic organizers for facilitating reading comprehension. Then as a whole group, share any conclusions.

