What are graphic organizers:

“A graphic organizer consists of spatial arrangements of words (or groups of words) intended to represent the conceptual organization of text”.

Graphic organizers are visual representations that portray relationships among key concepts and provide schematic mapping for this information.

Examples are “concept maps, cognitive maps, visual displays, semantic maps or webs, story grammar maps/templates, flowcharts, and Venn diagrams”.

Who benefits from using graphic organizers:

All types of student can benefit from graphic organizers. There are great tools for students with learning disabilities as well as English Language Learners.

The researcher looked at elementary, middle school, and high school students. It also looked at learning disabled, English as a Second Language students and general education students.

What are their benefits and why are graphic organizers effective:

- They are a wonderful way to conclude a text.
- Creates a valuable connection between perceptual and cognitive processing leading to strong grasp of content. Therefore it is more effective than outlines for content understanding.
- “[U]sing graphic organizers is effective in reading questions like (1) identifying the main idea, (2) finding the supporting details, (3) dealing with vocabulary and (4) fact and opinion & (5) making inferences. Furthermore, the pedagogical implication here is the use graphic organizers during reading comprehension sessions indirectly motivates the students to create their own graphic organizer for the passages they read and comprehend. This improves their creativity.”
How to use graphic organizers:

The key to a good graphic organizer is simplicity.

Graphic organizers can be:

- Typed or hand written
- Premade or student created

1. First one needs to understand the lesson.
2. Then one needs to break the main ideas of the lesson into manageable steps.
3. Next one needs to choose the best way to display those main ideas, such as a web, vein diagram or a chart.
4. Lastly one needs to makes sure it flows in logically and alludes to connections in the lesson.

How to implement and encourage use:

Students can be encouraged to use graphic organizers by demonstrating for the students how effective and straight forward their work could become if the used a graphic organizer.

Furthermore if the teacher used them while teaching it will create an atmosphere that supports this aid.

How to easily document the use:

The use of graphic organizers can be documented by collection the typed up or written graphics.

References

Articles

Images
- www.bromfields.net
- www.enchantedlearning.com
- timvandevall.com