Research, Write, Present | Research Process
Graphic Organizer

**Key Concept**
Are you ready to answer the questions you wrote to guide research on your topic? You located credible sources and gathered accurate and reliable information. You took notes on the information that could help you answer your research questions.

How can you use your notes to answer your research questions? First, you need to organize the information you gathered. One effective strategy is to organize your information graphically. You can use a graphic organizer, which is a visual representation of knowledge.

A graphic organizer helps you arrange many different pieces of information into a few logical ideas or concepts. An effective graphic organizer shows how ideas or concepts are supported by accurate and reliable information.

If you have taken effective notes, you already paraphrased and summarized the important ideas you need to answer your research questions. Now, you can use a graphic organizer to put your ideas together and show what you learned about your topic.

**Look Ahead**

**Task:** Organize the information you gathered on your topic.

**Goal:** Show that you can use a graphic organizer to represent knowledge.

You may want to review an example of a graphic organizer before you begin.

**See the example:**
[Graphic Organizer](#)
Vocabulary

**Words to Remember**
This page gives basic definitions for some important terms that can help you learn about graphic organizers. You can get a more complete definition of each term from Fact Monster*.

**New Words**

**Concept** (or **Idea**): A thought that combines specific information into a general statement.

**Conclusion**: A judgment, decision, or solution reached for specific reasons.

**Graphics**: Using pictures and other visual elements to communicate information.

**Organize**: Combine separate pieces of information into a logical whole.

**Review Words**

**Data**: Information collected by observation or measurement.

**Fact**: Information widely believed to be true and supported by objective data.

**Information**: Anything that can be used to create knowledge. For example, words, numbers, images, audio, and video can all contain information.

**Logical**: Capable of thinking in a clear and consistent way to draw correct conclusions.

**Paraphrase**: Restate an author’s ideas using different words.

**Plagiarism**: Copying or making slight changes in a written or created work and presenting it as a new or original work.

**Quote**: Use another person’s exact words.

**Source**: Anything or anyone providing information about a topic.

**Summarize**: Explain the main points and important details of an author’s ideas.
Exploration

Learning from the Web
Graphic organizers come in a variety of types to meet a variety of purposes. Which graphic organizer should you use? The answer depends on the kind of information you have and the type of expository writing you plan to use. Explore some Web sites about graphic organizers. Learn which types of graphic organizers you should use for various purposes.

While you explore the following Web sites, think about the guiding questions. You may want to take notes to help you answer the questions. If you think of other questions about graphic organizers, keep those in mind too.

Guiding Questions

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of various types of graphic organizers?
- Which graphic organizers are most appropriate for the information you collected?
- How is the type of information collected related to the type of expository writing you plan to use?

Web Sites
- Graphic Organizers* from SCORE*
- Compare and Contrast*
- Clustering*
- Cycle*
- Fishbone*
- Interaction Outline*
- Problem/Solution*
- Spider Map*
- Venn Diagram*
- Graphic Organizers* from Education Oasis*
- Cause and Effect*
- Compare and Contrast*
- Sequence, Cycle, Time Line, and Chain of Events*
- Tools for Reading, Writing, and Thinking* from Greece Central School District*
- Samples* from www.GraphicOrganizers.com*
Information

What to Know
This page summarizes some of the information from the Web sites you explored. This information helps you learn what you need to know for this activity about graphic organizers. You may want to take notes to help you remember the most important points. You can return to the Web sites for more exploration if you want to learn more.

How to Graphically Organize Information
Graphic organizers are ideal tools for arranging many pieces of information into a few logical concepts or ideas. A graphic organizer is a visual representation of knowledge. Different types of graphic organizers are used for different purposes. All graphic organizers show relationships among information, ideas, and concepts.

You must choose the type of graphic organizer to best help you accomplish your goals. Some common reasons for using a graphic organizer are:

Cause and Effect. The fishbone is a popular graphic organizer for showing cause-and-effect relationships. The fishbone shows how different causes contribute to a particular effect. It can also show details about each cause. An interaction outline shows cause-and-effect relationships between two people or groups.

Classify and Divide. A clustering diagram, also called a concept map or web, is an effective way to sort many pieces of information and group them into categories.

Compare and Contrast. A simple compare-and-contrast organizer shows the characteristics of two items on a list of attributes. A Venn diagram is also a popular graphic organizer for comparing and contrasting two or more concepts or ideas. A Venn diagram shows what two or more concepts or ideas have in common. It also shows what they do not have in common.

Definition. The spider map is an effective way to organize definitions. The topic to be defined is the “body” of the spider. The main characteristics and support details of the topic make up the “legs” of the spider.

Process. Some graphic organizers represent special processes. For example, a problem-solution organizer shows possible solutions to a problem. It can also show the results of alternative solutions. A cycle organizer represents a process that runs in a continuous circle.
Task

What to Do
Complete the following task to show what you have learned about graphic organizers. While you work through the task, think about whether you are achieving the goal. You may want to review an example of a graphic organizer before you begin.

Task: Organize the information you gathered on your topic.

Goal: Show that you can use a graphic organizer to represent knowledge.

See the example: Organizer for Global Warming

1. Start a new word processing document. Always remember to type your name, the date, and a title at the top of the document. You may use a drawing or diagramming application if you have access to one.

2. Save the document with a filename that indicates it contains your graphic organizer.

3. Determine which type of graphic organizer is best for the information you gathered and the type of expository writing you plan to use. Check with your teacher to make sure you select an appropriate organizer.

4. Create a graphic organizer to represent what you learned on your topic. You may want to use a table or the drawing features of your word processing application.

5. Remember to save your document often while you work.

6. Review the checklist and revise your graphic organizer to make sure it is complete.

7. Share your graphic organizer.
Task Example
Student Name
Date

Organizer for Global Warming

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Energy gets trapped in the atmosphere by greenhouse gasses</td>
<td>Global Warming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glaciers begin melting</td>
<td>Seas rise causing shore erosion endangering natural systems and manmade structures and causing damage to crops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The seas are warming</td>
<td>The number of Category 4 and 5 hurricanes has almost doubled in the last 30 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate changing</td>
<td>Many animals may become extinct by 2050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>