GRAPHIC ORGANIZER—WEBSITES

Smart Ideas—Lesson Activities to use with Smart Ideas software
http://www.edcompass.smarttech.com/ec/en-US/Learning+Resources/Lesson+Activities/SMART+Ideas+Activities/Canada/default.htm

Smart Ideas—Clipart
http://www.smarttech.com/products/smartideas/clipart/index.asp

North Central Regional Educational Laboratory
http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/students/learning/lr1grorg.htm

Teachnology—The Web Portal for Educators—Graphic Organizers
http://www.teach-nology.com/worksheets/graphic

Scholastic—Teachers—Graphic Organizers
http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonplans/graphicorg/

Instructional Strategies Online
http://olc.spsd.sk.ca/DE/PD/instr/strats/graphicorganizers/

"A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words" - From Now On—Jamie McKenzie
http://www.fno.org/oct97/picture.html

Graphic Organizer Rubric
http://www.uwstout.edu/soe/profdev/inspirationrubric.html

The Graphic Organizer
http://www.graphic.org/goindex.html

Graphic Organizers that Support Specific Thinking Skills
http://www.somers.k12.ny.us/intranet/skills/thinkmaps.html

Graphic Organizers—Houghton Mifflin
http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/k_5/graphorg/

Graphic Organizers—ProTeacher
http://www.proteacher.com/020067.shtml

Big6 and Higher Ed: Information Seeking Strategies and Library Instruction
http://www.big6.com/showenewsarticle.php?id=508

Inspiration/Kidspiration
http://www.inspiration.com

Electronic Organizers in the School Library Program

Reference to the use of visual organizers as learning tools is found repeatedly throughout Ministry curriculum documents at all grade levels. As well, the OSLA's Information Studies document promotes the use of organizers to aid students' ability to gather, organize, analyze and present information. Visual organizers promote the building of cognitive structures by the student, upon which new learning can be scaffolded.

Visual organizers can assist the teacher as well, both for teaching and assessing. As an assessment tool, they provide an at-a-glance view of the students' understanding of concepts, their ability to see relationships, as well as an awareness of the degree of complexity of understanding that a student has.

There are many different kinds of organizers, designed to record, classify, sequence, compare, and so on.

"Clip art presented from the Clip Art Gallery at DiscoverySchool.com"

<u>Why use electronic visual organizers in the research process?</u>

- Students can readily see relationships among concepts and can detect gaps in their information-gathering more easily
- editing tools make revisions easier, faster and less tedious
- students have more flexibility with regards to the type and size of the organizing template that they use—webs, flow-charts, sequence charts, etc., can all be created and modified quickly and easily
- electronic graphic organizers will allow the automatic conversion of the diagram view to an outline format that can be readily modified
- the availability of many fonts, styles, sizes, colours, etc., promotes student self-expression
- by being successful in their planning and writing, students are more likely to continue to expand their writing and other research skills
- The use of electronic graphic organizers addresses students' different learning styles: kinesthetic and spatial learners benefit from the hands-on keyboarding and mouse-clicking, visual layouts, graphics, text styles, etc.

M.Legault—Hamilton-Wentworth DSB

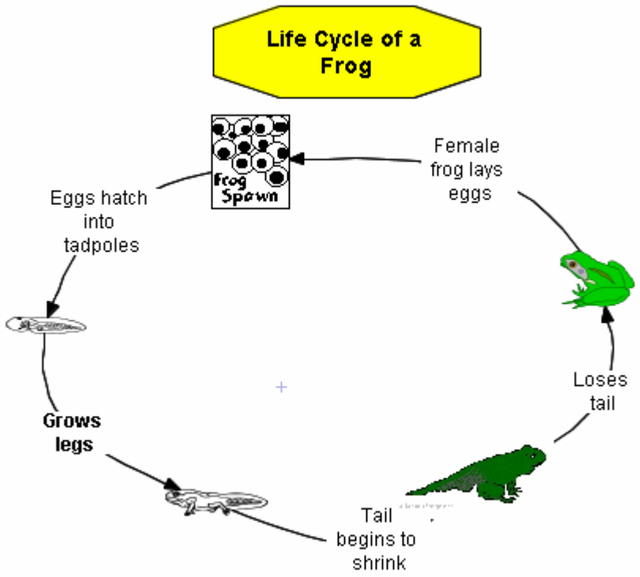
USING ELECTRONIC ORGANIZERS IN THE RESEARCH PROCESS (Inquiry and Research Strand)

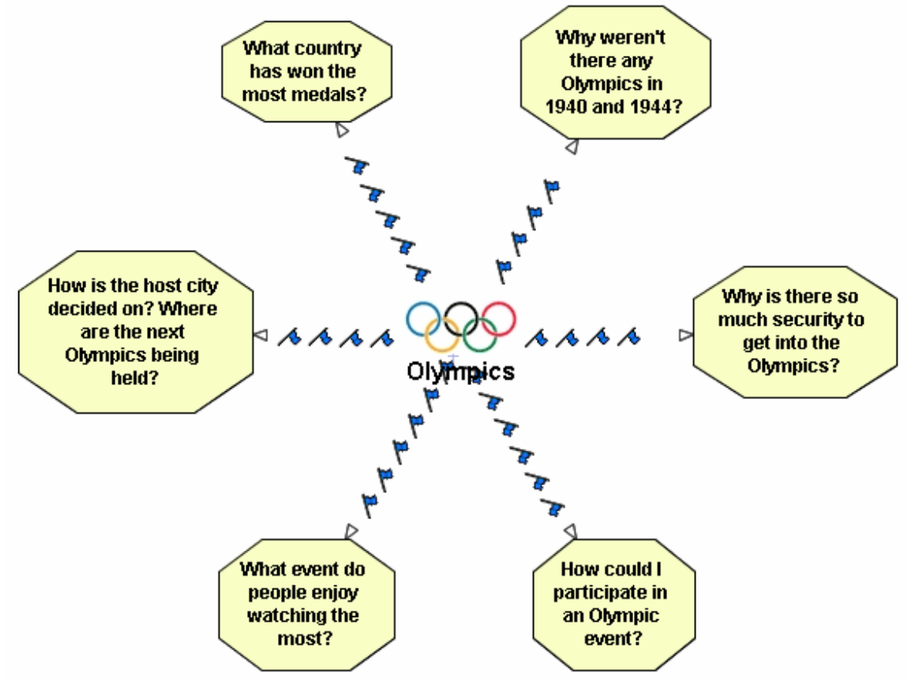
The Research Process	Tasks	Types of Organizers
Preparing for Research	• Define information needs (Concepts/Reasoning) • Identify varied ways of organizing information (Organizing)	⇒ Web, mind map ⇒ K-W-L chart ⇒ Storyboard
Accessing Resources	• Track information resources • Collaborate with others to share findings and ideas (Communicating) •	⇒ Webs ⇒ Grid/Matrix ⇒ Table ⇒ Diagramming
Processing Information	• Sort information using a variety of organizers and formats (Organizing) • Synthesize findings and formulate conclusions (Applying)	⇒ T-chart ⇒ Diagram >>> Outline ⇒ Describing Wheel ⇒ Fishbone ⇒ Target ⇒ Sequence chart, Chain of Events ⇒ Table ⇒ Spider Map ⇒ Tree Map ⇒ Continuum/Timeline ⇒ Fishbone (Cause and Effect) ⇒ K-W-L chart ⇒ Web ⇒ Agree/Disagree chart ⇒ Compare/Contrast Matrix ⇒ Ranking Ladder ⇒ Part to Whole chart ⇒ Diagramming
Transferring Learning	• Revise product appropriate to purpose, audience and format (Organizing) • Present research findings in a variety of forms (Communication)	⇒ Flow chart ⇒ Web ⇒ Cluster map ⇒ Diagramming ⇒ Point of view
NOTE: Graphic organizers identified for each stage in the research process are suggestions only. Most organizers could be used at several stages, depending on the task that the student is completing.		

ELECTRONIC ORGANIZERS ADDRESS THE OVERALL EXPECTATIONS OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES STRAND

- Use information technology to define needs, select information, analyse information, and reflect on research
- Use information technology to identify, gather and sort information, and revise product
- Use information technology to explore information, collaborate with others, test ideas and present findings
- Use information technology to relate prior knowledge, locate information, synthesize findings, formulate conclusions and transfer knowledge and skills

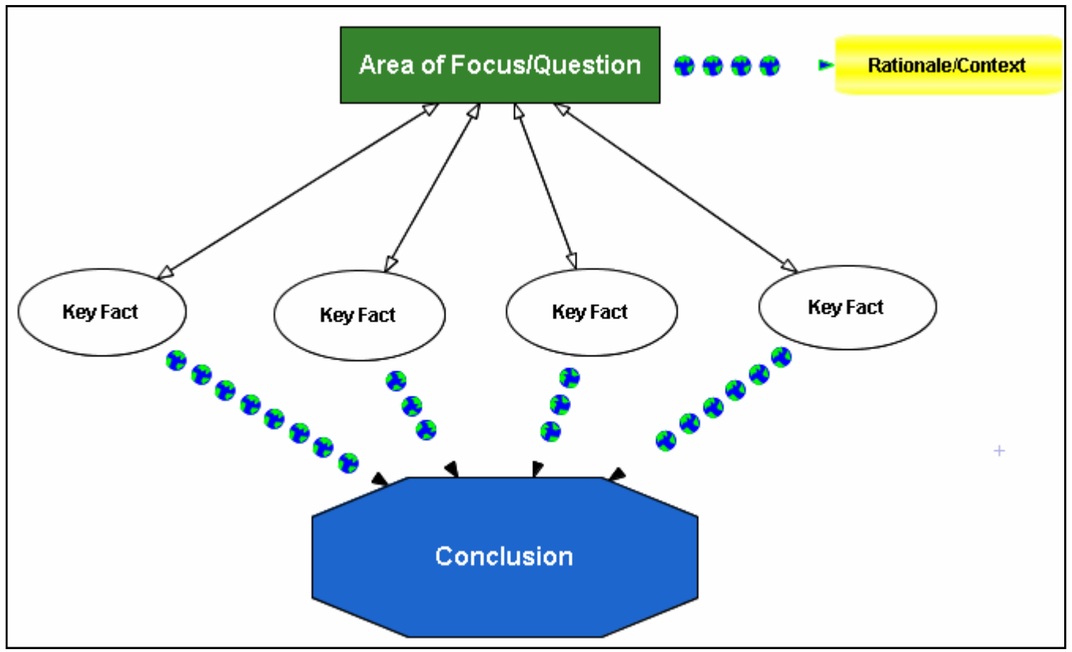
SAMPLE STUDENT ORGANIZERS





SAMPLE ORGANIZER TEMPLATE

- Created by the teacher for students to use during the research process—students open and complete the template—in this way, teachers can model and guide students in the use of a variety of organizers
- Created in a software application of your choice, for example, Smart Ideas, AppleWorks, MSPublisher, Inspiration/Kidspiration* (not Ministry licensed, but has been purchased by some Boards)
- In Smart Ideas, you can move between Diagram and Outline views to develop a written report;



students can then change their point form notes into complete sentences directly in the outline

Main

1. Area of Focus/Question -
   - 1.1. Rationale/Context
   - 1.2. Key Fact
   - 1.3. Key Fact
   - 1.4. Key Fact
   - 1.5. Key Fact
     - 1.5.1. Conclusion

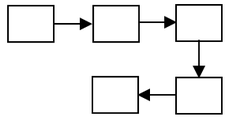
- Students can also export the diagram and outline to a word processor to complete their report.

Some Ideas for Using (Electronic) Visual Organizers in the School Library Program

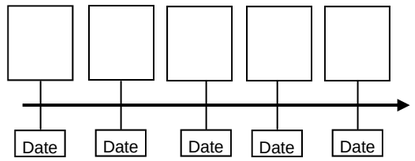
- Sort selected library books in a Venn Diagram based on certain criteria (e.g., genre/author origin); use hoola hoops to sort the physical items first
- Select a topic; then, using a web, brainstorm a list of questions, the answers to which generate facts, prompt comparison to known information, encourage original thinking (what if?), encourage reflection
- Present a variety of visual organizers, either electronically or in print; discuss how each would be used, including the benefits of using one organizer over another for specific tasks; have students select an appropriate organizer to show their findings
- Create a list of Internet Search Engines, then use an appropriate organizer to show similarities and differences
- Plan an event (for example, a book fair, a celebration, a class trip) using a sequence chart
- Select a social or other issue pertinent to the school (for example, wearing hats in school, skateboards on the playground, cellphones in school); use a point of view organizer to identify various viewpoints, rationale and related outcomes
- Use a web to brainstorm various sources of information that could be used when conducting research; group similar sources...using various criteria
- Select a remarkable Canadian and use an appropriate organizer to showcase him/her
- Use a hierarchy chart to identify levels and departments of government and how they relate to each other
- Create a cycle chart to explain a process, for example, the seasons, life cycle of an animal or plant, the food chain
- Using a topic being studied, create a 2 or 3-ring Venn Diagram, with data filled in but titles (criteria) omitted; challenge a peer to identify the titles are based on the location of the data
- Create a continuum or timeline that identifies developments, characteristics, events, etc. during a period of old or recent history; include text and images
- As a response to a novel or fiction story, use a ‘cause and effect’ organizer to demonstrate how the actions of one of the characters affected others

VISUAL ORGANIZER SAMPLES

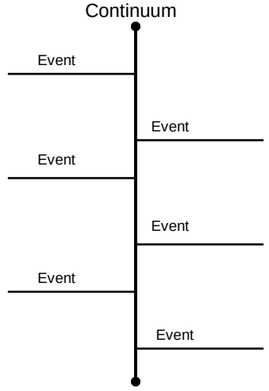
SEQUENCING



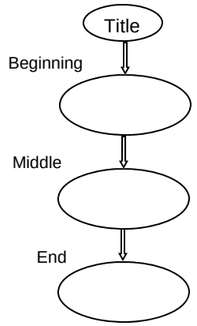
Timeline



Continuum

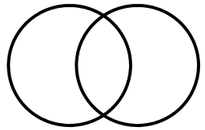


Diagram

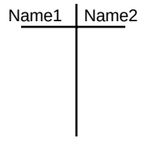


COMPARING

Venn Diagram



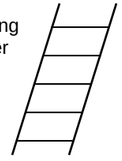
T-Chart



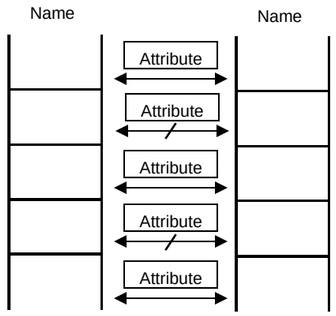
Compare/Contrast Matrix

Attribute	Name 1	Name 2
Attribute 1		
Attribute 2		

Ranking Ladder



Ladder Map

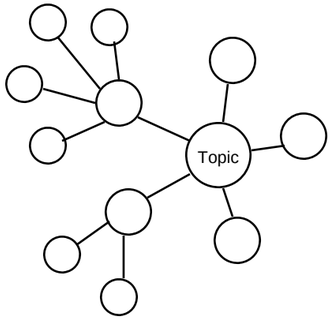


PLANNING

K-W-L Chart

Know	Want to Know	Learned

Web



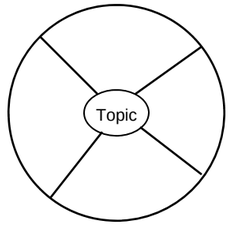
Storyboard

*** Organizers on pages 4 and 5 were created using Microsoft Publisher 2002**

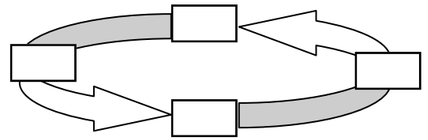
VISUAL ORGANIZER SAMPLES (cont'd)

OTHER RECORDING ORGANIZERS

Describing Wheel



Cycle

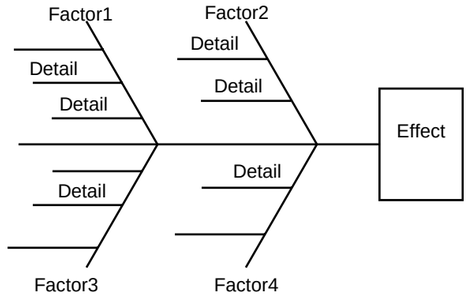


Multi-column Chart

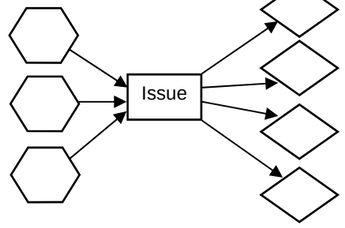
Topic1 Topic4 Topic3 Topic4

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Fishbone

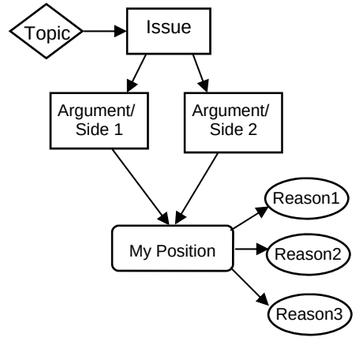


Influences/Factors



OPINION AND POINT OF VIEW

Thesis Organizer



Points of view/ Perspective

Resulting Actions