



PINPOINT



When you put a visual model in the centre of the teaching process, the boundaries between literacy, learning and thinking skills begin to seem increasingly artificial.

Sue Palmer

What are Graphic Organisers?

Graphic organisers (or visual tools), are tools for thinking. They display the sort of links we make in our heads when we make sense of something.

Almost as if our mental models have been extracted from inside our minds out onto paper.

What are the benefits?

Because they make their meaning so obvious and clear, graphic organisers:

- create interest
- sustain attention
- organise thoughts
- shape speaking and listening
- stimulate iterative thinking
- plan and structure writing
- stick in long-term memory.

How can I use them?

Use graphic organisers in your classroom as:

- Advance organisers to get the gist of what is to come
- Post organisers to review what has been learned
- Cloze procedures to scaffold learning
- Note-taking to summarise
- Visual instruction plans to support independent work
- Manipulatives for card sorting in group thinking.

REFERENCES

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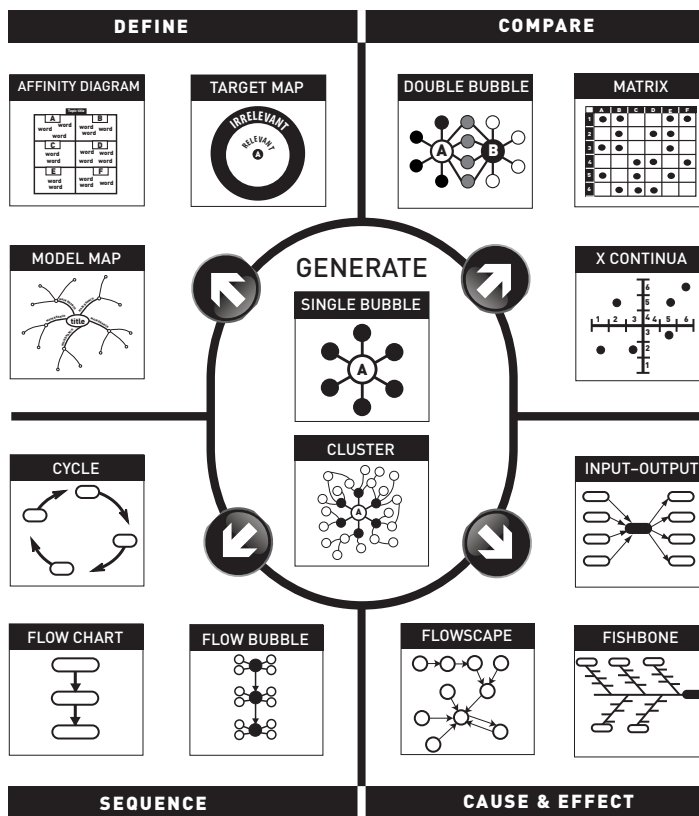
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Organising Graphic Organisers

There are so many graphic organisers it can all seem a bit confusing. Yet, however many there are, they all fit into one, or a combination, of only four main categories. Below shows this basic structure. Generating tools—or brainstorming—are central, and precede any organising. Initial ideas are then organised into one of the four main modes of thinking.



Maps are tools for displaying intellectual processes.

Art Costa



We do not think in a sequential way, yet every body of information is given to us in a linear manner.

Richard Saul Wurman

A process for thinking

Effective thinking is a process. It is also iterative, going through many recaps and revisions. The process below captures the essential steps. Collecting and Connecting generates ideas, which are then edited by Culling. Grouping selected ideas happens with Chunking, followed by Chaining these ideas into a logical sequence ready for communicating.

