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# Graphic Organizers in the K-5 Classroom

## Overall:

This presentation will focus on how student comprehension can be developed and extended through the use of graphic organizers. Participants will be provided with examples of graphic organizers to meet the needs of all learners. (Bring your digital devices to explore online graphic organizers.)

## Research

There is overwhelming research showing the benefits of using graphic organizers in the classroom. All students, no matter what their individual academic level is, can use graphic organizers to help them sort through texts and comprehend the text better. The beauty of graphic organizers is that they can be used with students before, during, and after reading. They can also be done as formative and/or summative assessments based on the type of graphic organizer and how it is being used.

"Graphic organizers provide teachers with tools to help students on the road to higher achievement in their reading comprehension skills. Graphic organizers that target critical and creative thinking elements help develop students in their ability to comprehend and understand the meaning of a text. The focus of the students in content is improved and they can classify the content into small understandable units. Graphic organizers provide new language that facilitates classroom communication, as well as deepen understanding of the content that teachers work to transmit. The effectiveness of graphic organizers is proved in the analysis done by Marzano, Pickering, and Pollock (2001)."

*-Excerpt from Using Graphic Organizers to Improve Reading Comprehension Skills for the Middle School ESL Students*

### Presenters:

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## Weebly Website:



\*Scan to view our Weebly with more information, Blackline Masters, student examples, and lesson ideas.

### Striving Readers:

Students come into the classroom at varying levels. Striving readers are students who are just now venturing out onto their reading journey by beginning to understand the meaning and depth of each text they are reading. When it comes to comprehension, striving readers need to first learn the basic strategies of comprehension. The graphic organizers presented for striving readers within the presentation are targeted towards students between the grades of Kindergarten and Second and include the basic strategies of **discovering main idea**, **summarizing the text**, and **retelling the story**. Once striving readers can grasp the basic strategies of comprehension, they can continue on their reading journey to more complex comprehension strategies.

### Critical Thinking:

Graphic Organizers can be used to provide students with opportunities to think critically and challenge students' thinking. Some graphic organizers for critical thinking are best used as an independent assignment to check a student's ability to comprehend text, while other organizers can be used to teach in small groups or whole class instruction. Graphic organizers for critical thinking should help students break down rigorous text or complex ideas of a text.

### Nonfiction Texts:

Nonfiction texts can be hard to navigate for students because of the complexity of the information they are reading. The resources provided help to scaffold students who are striving readers to become successful with the standard. Some of the organizers can be used with a highlighter for striving readers or lower grades, some are for students to write in quick jots, and others are more for students to write in complete sentences for upper grades and higher leveled readers.

### Digital Organizers:

Graphic organizers can be created digitally within your classrooms. With a variety of different resources, students can create and complete graphic organizers individually or collaboratively online. Websites such as **Padlet**, **Prezi**, **Popplet**, and **Read Works Interactive Graphic Organizers** are all available for students and teachers to use. Any paper organizer can be recreated on these websites easily by the teacher or students. With lower level students, such as K-2, teachers can have students complete online graphic organizers together as a whole class or within small groups. Older students in grades 3-5 can set up their own organizers and work collaboratively in groups to complete them.