

# Graphic Organizers

## Purpose

The goal of using a graphic organizer is to provide a visual representation of a concept, timeline or categorization. Multiple organizers are available with each applied for a different aspect of learning. The value of a graphic is to reinforce a concept and to allow students to visually organize the materials. Further, the dynamic communication and classroom interactions during the development of the organizer assist students in clarifying their thinking. These organizers can be used prior to the lesson presentation for students to begin thinking about the topics of the lesson or after the lesson as a review process. Small groups can utilize an organizer for later comparison by the entire class. Organizers require classroom engagement and verbal exchanges as the chart is being developed.

Key questions need to be asked by the instructor before using a graphic organizer to insure it meets the anticipated learning objective. How facile is the instructor in using this graphic and will it assist in meeting the classroom objective? Will the development time support students in learning this new material? How does this selected organizer enhance the content?

## Description

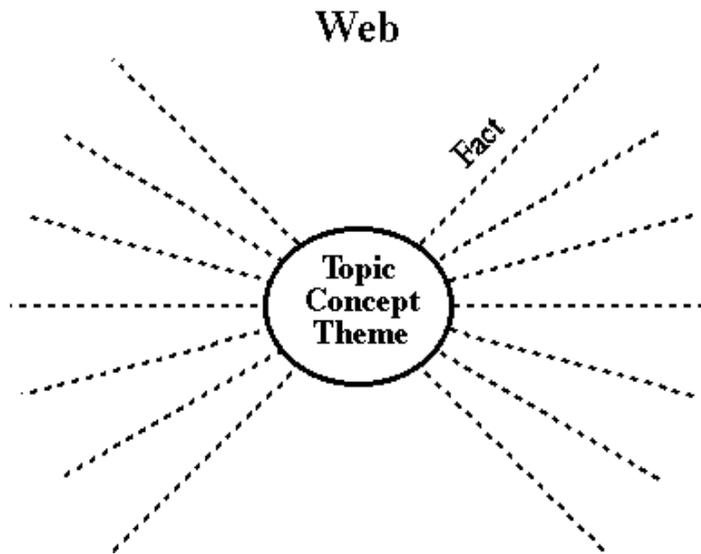
Four major purposes of using graphic organizers are:

- To have the student generate ideas about the material through using a brainstorming web and concept map
- To compare and contrast elements using Venn diagrams or a matrix
- To classify data using a hierarchical tree
- To sequence information through a linear string or cycle chains

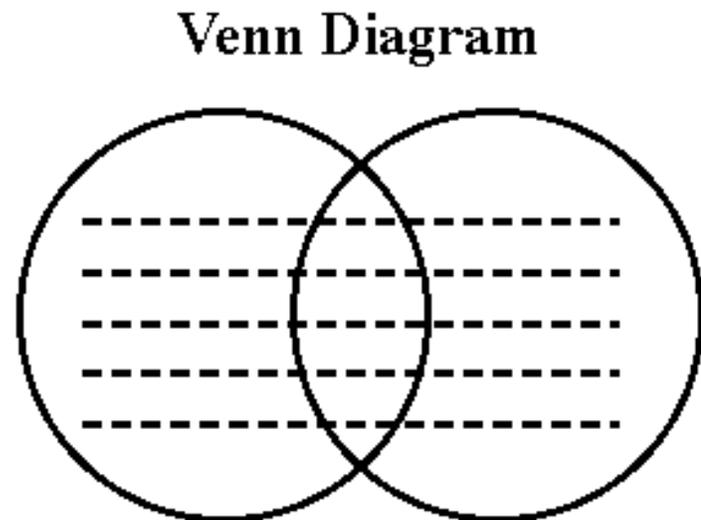
Microsoft Power Point 2007 provides multiple variations of organizers grouped into lists, process, cycle, hierarchies, relationship, matrix and pyramid. These can be located on the Home tab, Paragraph bar, entitled Smart Art Graphic.

On the next page, we will review four commonly used graphic organizers, followed by multiple resources identifying and clarifying other organizers.

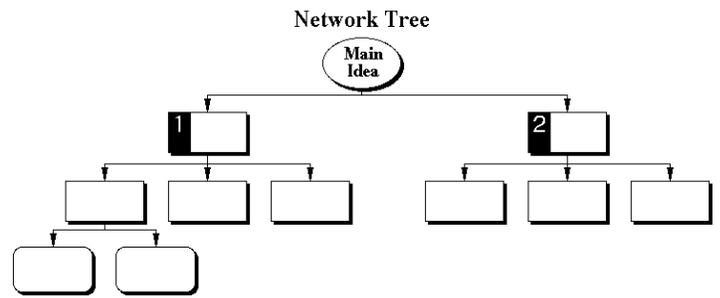
**Brainstorming Web** – An initial concept is present in the center of the chart and then elements are added that relate to the key concept, building a spider web. If sticky notes are used then a regrouping can occur as more information is added.



**Venn Diagram** – Two circles are drawn with an overlapping area. In the one circle the characteristics of one element are present and the other in the second circle. The center area provides space to identify those elements that are the same for both. For example the economy of China and India.

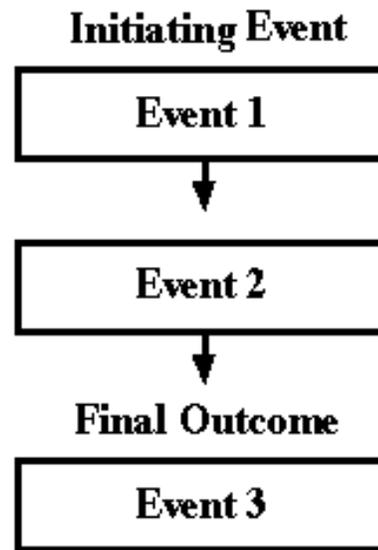


**Hierarchy Chart** – A pyramid is used to present the visual hierarchy between elements.



**Linear String** – To graphically display a sequence of events, stages or a timeline. This can be a historical sequence of events or a linear procedure.

## Series of Events Chain



*All visuals from online resources listed below.*

## Resources

<http://www.writedesigonline.com/organizers/index.html>

This site provides 20 organizers with visual examples.

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/graphicorganizers>

This site provides multiple graphic organizers.

<http://www.graphic.org/index.html>

This site provides lists of references and guidelines for using organizer with samples of student work.