Graphic organizers are a specific instructional organization tool for all students in a variety of content areas in inclusive classrooms. It supports students from all grade levels, including English language learners and the ones with learning disabilities, mild to severe intellectual disabilities, and Autism.

Visually displaying key content ideas can benefit learners who have difficulty organizing information. Graphic organizers can be used to present information needed prior to reading or to help students remember important information during reading in order to improve comprehension.

Three general principles for the effective use of graphic organizers: Consistent, Coherent and Creative (3C)
3C Principle for Effective Graphic Organizers

Consistent
- Create a standard set
- Establish a routine of implementing them in the classroom

Coherent
- Provide clear labels for the relationship between concepts
- Limit the number of ideas covered
- Minimize distractions

Creative
- Use during all stages of lesson design
- Incorporate during homework and test review
- Add illustrations
- Implement with cooperative groups and pairs

Examples
Procedures

Identify the purpose
Pick out content that can be supported with a graphic organizer and find a graphic organizer that can be used to help students understanding the content.

Explain the purpose
Explain the graphic organizer and it's purpose to students and model the organizer works.

Involve Students in constructing a graphic organizer
Walk students through the building of a graphic, asking questions that lead them to place components in the proper places on the graphic. Give students in need extra time and support.

Discuss the connections
Support students in discussing the connections show on the graphic with teaching content.

Provide additional practice in using graphic organizers
Once students are familiar with a variety of graphic organizers, encourage them to use graphic organizers to represent their understanding in a variety of contexts.

Reference


