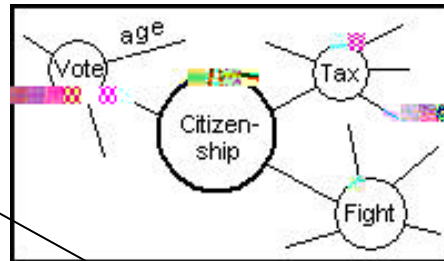# LESSON 5: GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Analog y/Simile Cha rt
Bridging Snapshots
Conc ept Web
Double T-Chart
Fishbone
Graphic Or ganizer
KDL
KWL
Looks-Sounds-Feels
Matrix
Mind Map
Pie Chart
PMI
Ranking Ladder
Right Angle
Sequen ce
Sunshine Wheel
T-Chart
Venn Diagram

INTRODUCTION

Graphic organizers are excellent tools for learning the structure of thinking skills. A graphic organizer provides a power-ful visual picture of information and allows the mind "to see" patterns and relationships.

There are numerous types of organi-zers and each type represents a different thinking skill. We use them everyday in our lives. The most common example is the calendar. Using a calendar helps us to gather, sift, sort, and share information.

Graphic organizers can be categorized by the different thinking skills they utilize:

- Brainstorming/Associating
- Comparing/Prioritizing
- Analyzing/Comparing
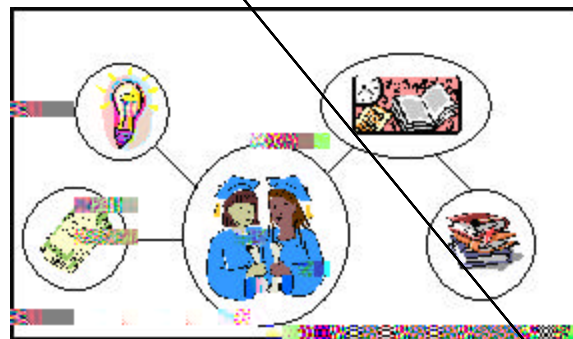- Sequencing/Visualizing
- Connecting/Reflecting

BRAINSTORMING/ASSOCIATING

Concept Web

The center circle in a **Concept Web** represents a main concept or idea. The smaller circles connecting to the main concept represent the sub concepts; connected to these sub concepts are sub-sub concepts. For example, the center circle could be citizen-ship. The smaller connected circles are sub concepts related to citizenship. You can use these smaller circles to explore additional supporting concepts. An illustration might be the sub concept of voting as a critical part of citizenship.

Mind Map

The **Mind Map** is a form of brainstorming using a free-flowing documentation process where lines connect concepts to each other. The core subject is in the center; the main spokes are like sub parts of chapters. You can relate ideas by color codes, circles, or attached lines. You can also use pictures and words. You can use a Mind Map to organize thoughts, either of an individual or of a group, for preparing lesson plans, writing a book, planning a project, or giving a speech.
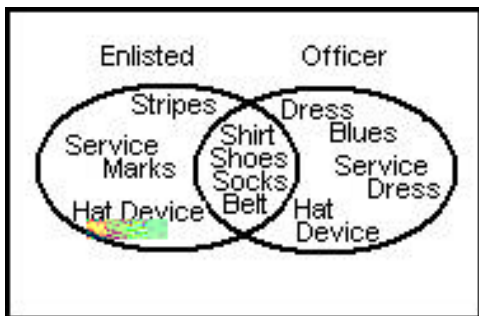
Sunshine Wheel
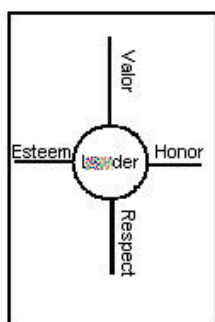
The center circle of the **Sunshine Wheel** represents the main idea and the lines extending out from the center circle represent the thoughts generated about the main idea. For example, the center circle could be leadership and the rays could be all the elements of leadership you can recall.

COMPARING/PRIORITIZING

Venn Diagram

The overlapping circles of a **Venn Diagram** are most useful for comparing and contrasting topics. The free parts of each circle contain the elements unique to each topic. The parts of the circle that overlap contain elements that are shared by each topic. For example, you could compare enlisted personnel with officers.

Analogy/Simile Chart
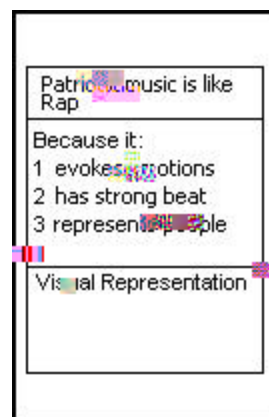
An **Analogy Chart** is used to illustrate the thinking and organizing process that involves comparing one thing to another thing that initially seems unrelated. The benefit of the process comes from having to explore the connections and the critical elements. For example, you could compare what patriotic music has in common with rap music.

T-Chart

Poor Nutrition	
Problem	Solution
Eating junk food	Education

The possible headings for this two-column chart are limitless. Some suggested headings are "Before and After," "Pros and Cons," or "Cause and Effect." For example, you might use a **T-Chart** to brainstorm

solutions to problems associated with poor nutrition among teenagers. In the left column, identify the reasons why there exists poor nutrition among teenagers and in the right column brainstorm possible solutions.

Ranking Ladder
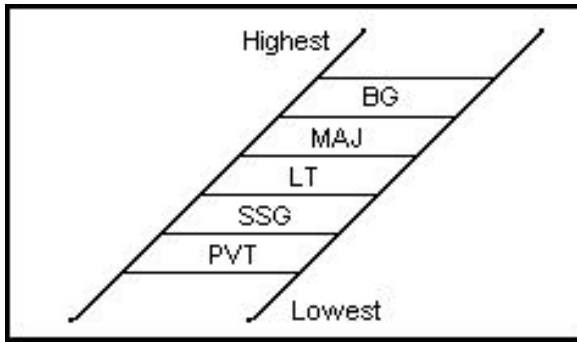
The rungs on the **Ranking Ladder** can represent priority or precedence, such as steps in a process, a hierarchy, position of components, relative importance of each data point, or status of individuals. For example, you might use a Ranking Ladder to prioritize ranks in the military.
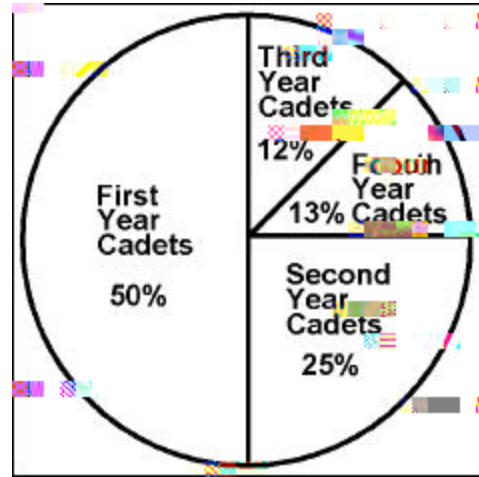
ANALYZING/COMPARING

Looks-Sounds-Feels

Look-Sounds-Feels allows you to compare appearances, auditory expressions, and tactile characteristics of an element. For example, "What does a musical instrument look like, sound like, and feel like when being played?"
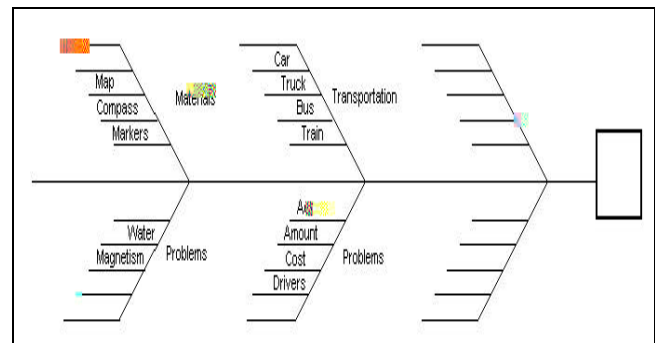
Pie Chart

Each segment of a circle in a **Pie Chart** represents a percentage or actual number of data points. For example, the pie could represent the total number of cadets in the JROTC program in a given high school. The relative size of each slice of the pie would represent the percentage of first, second, third, and fourth year cadets. Alternatively, each slice might represent the number of JROTC graduates that join a particular branch of the service.

SEQUENCING/VISUALIZING

Fishbone

The structure of a **Fishbone Chart**

a problem, issue, or project. "Ribs" of the fish represent component parts of the problem and the related elements of each part. For example, you could explore how to prepare for an upcoming orienteering competition. Each rib represents the critical elements of preparation. Attached to each rib are the processes or activities that will assist in accomplishing each key element.

Matrix

Elements needed to earn next rank

	SEP	OCT	NOV
Uniforms	80	90	90
Marching	75	85	90
Grades	80	85	90
Health	70	75	80
Respect	90	90	90

The **Matrix** tool is helpful to identify relationships and component pieces of an issue or data point. Intersecting horizontal and vertical lines create a grid used to classify and categorize related elements. For example, you could create a calendar matrix for accomplishing specific advancements. The vertical columns are labeled across the top by month. The horizontal columns are labeled down the left side by specific areas of advancement. The elements that must be met each month in

CONNECTING/REFLECTING

KWL

This is another three-column chart. The specific labels for each column are "What do you *KNOW*?" What do you *WANT* to know?" and "What have you *LEARNED*?" This is useful when you are faced with new or difficult information. For example, at the beginning of the unit on leadership, you might create a **KWL** chart for recording your responses to "What do you *KNOW* about leadership?" and "What do you *WANT* to know about leadership?" At the end of the unit, you can return to the chart and fill in the last column, "What have you *LEARNED* about leadership?"

KDL

The specific labels for each column in the three-column **KDL** chart are, "What do you *KNOW*?" What do you *DO*?" and "What have you *LEARNED*?" You can use this graphic organizer to connect knowledge and behavior. For example, you *KNOW* to stand erect and still at "attention." You *DO* actually slouch at "attention" in formation. At the end of the unit, you *LEARN* to feel muscle tension

in specific areas to know when you are standing erect at "attention."

concerns the American people have about Internet security.

CONCLUSION

Overall, graphic organizers allow you to visually organize concepts, ideas, data, thoughts, and feelings. Choosing the appropriate graphic organizer depends on the type of elements that need organizing and analyzing. Once the organization process is complete, understanding complex concepts, decision making, and problem solving becomes easier.