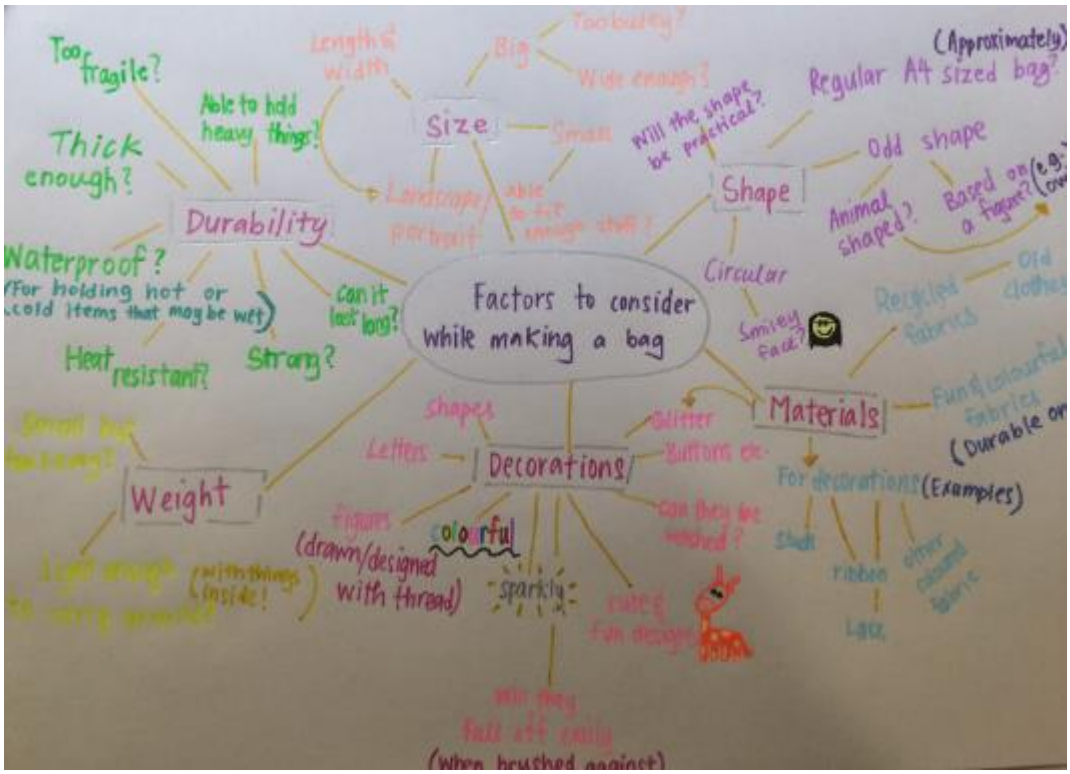
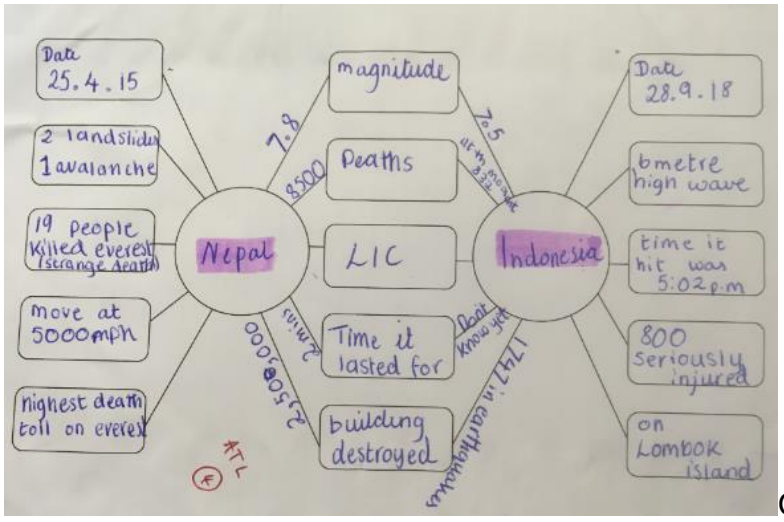
Types of Graphic Organiser

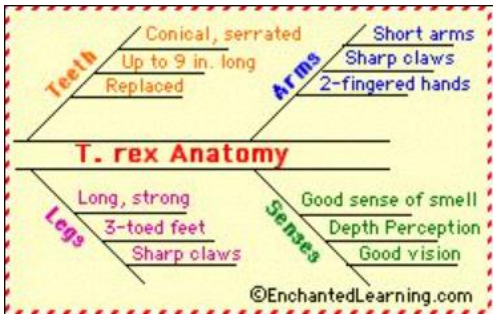
Spider: If the topic involves investigating attributes associated with a single topic, and then obtaining more details on each of these ideas, use a spider diagram as your graphic organiser. This is like the star graphic organiser with one more level of detail. Example: Finding methods that help your study skills (like taking notes, reading, memorizing, etc.), and investigating the factors involved in performing each of the methods.

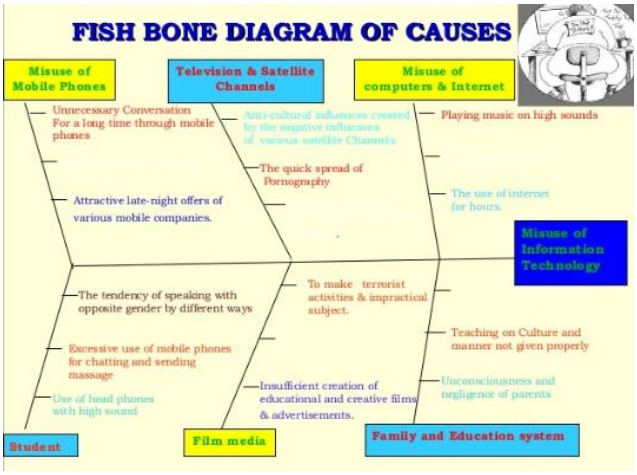




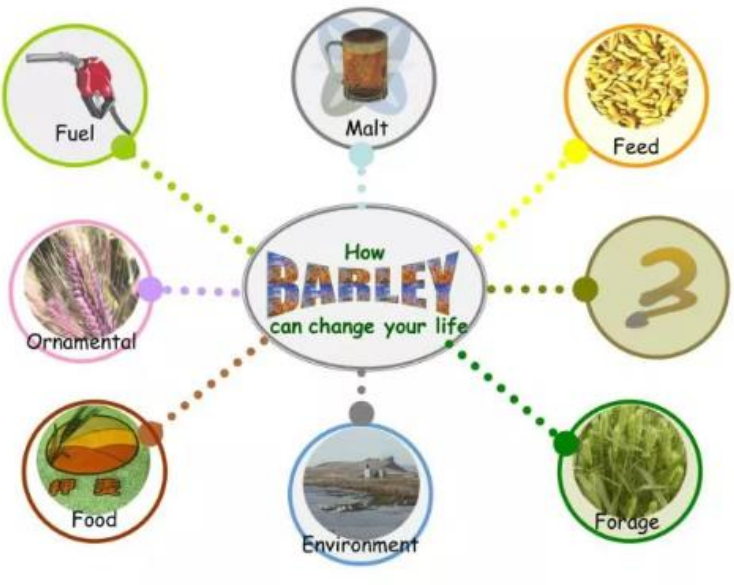
Comparison Spider Diagram

Fishbone: If the topic involves investigating multiple cause-and-effect factors associated with a complex topic and how they inter-relate, use a fishbone diagram as your graphic organiser. Example: Examining the effects of improved farming methods.

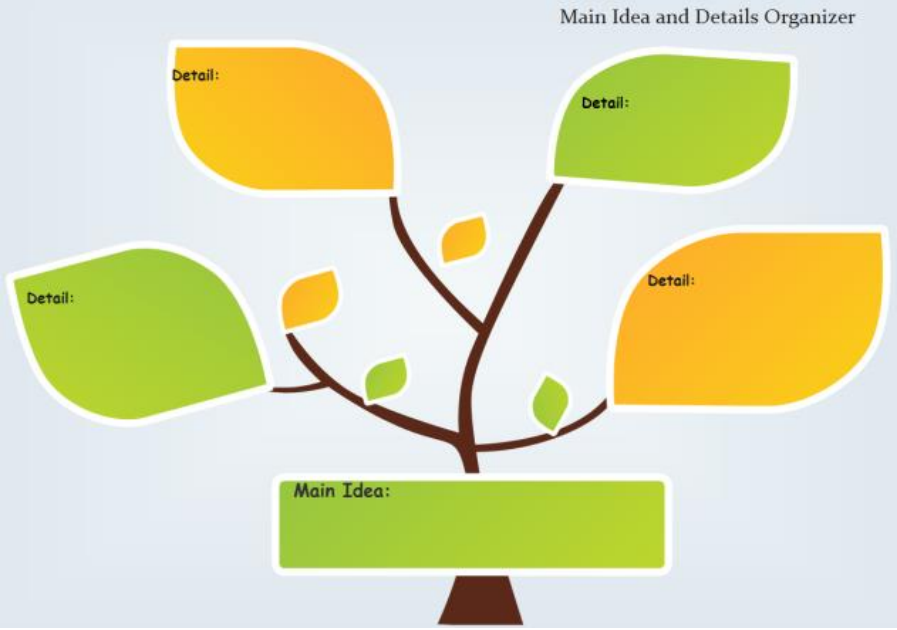




Cloud/Cluster: If the topic involves generating a web of ideas based on a stimulus topic, use a clustering diagram as your graphic organiser. Example: brainstorming.



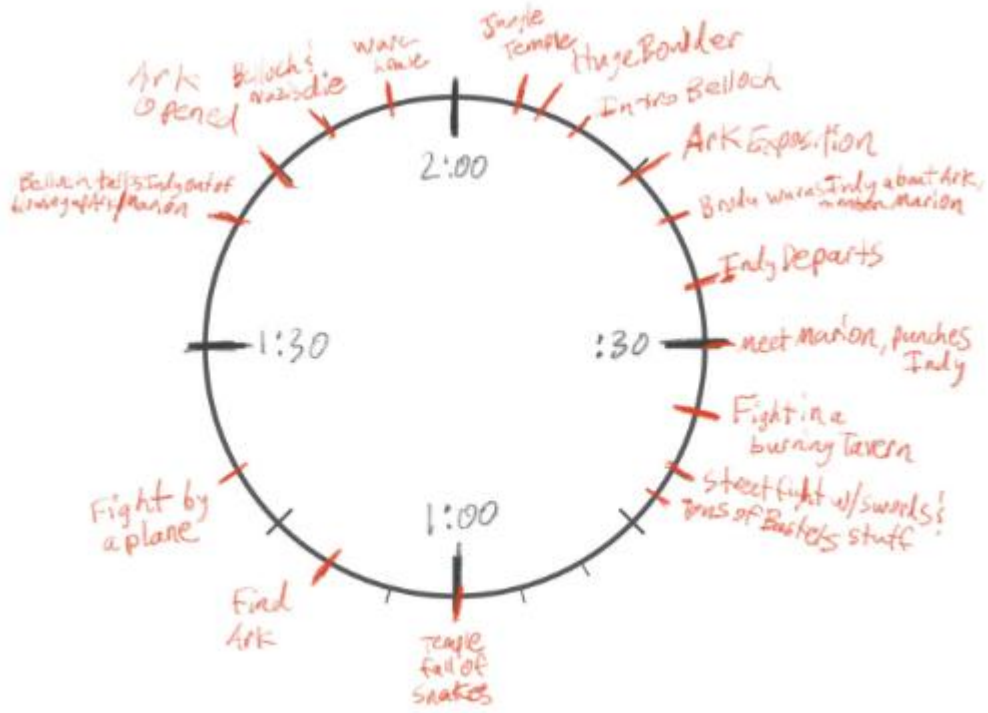
Tree: If the topic involves a chain of events with a beginning and with multiple outcomes at each node (like a family tree), use a tree as your graphic organiser. Example: Displaying the probabilistic results of tossing coins.



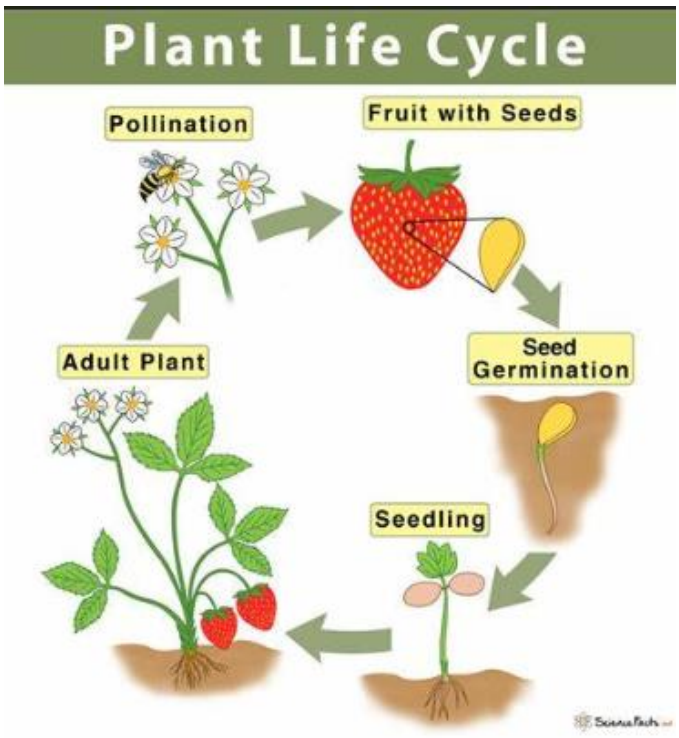
Chain of Events: If the topic involves a linear chain of events, with a definite beginning, middle, and end, use a chain of events graphic organiser. Example: Analyzing the plot of a story.

Clock: If the topic involves a clock-like cycle, use a clock graphic organiser. Example topic: Recording the events in a typical school day or making a story clock to

summarize a story.

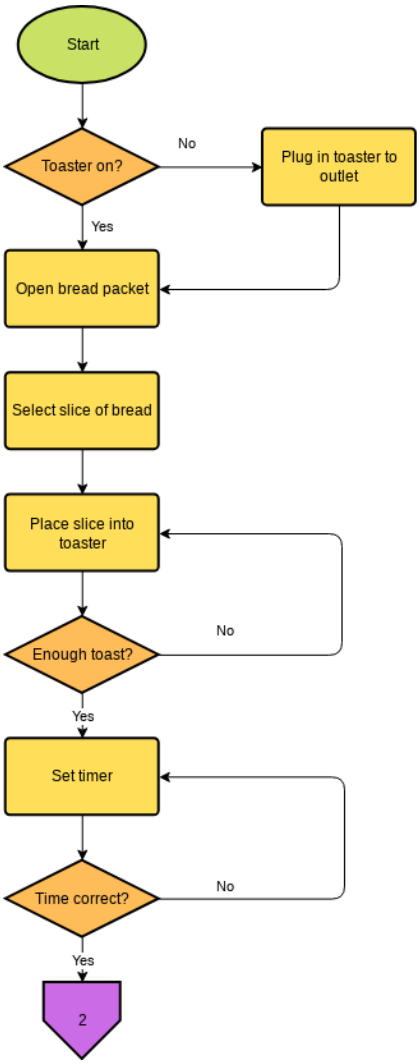


Cycle of Events: If the topic involves a recurring cycle of events, with no beginning and no end, use a cyclic graphic organiser. Example topic: Documenting the stages in the lifecycle of an animal.



Flowchart: If the topic involves a chain of instructions to follow, with a beginning and

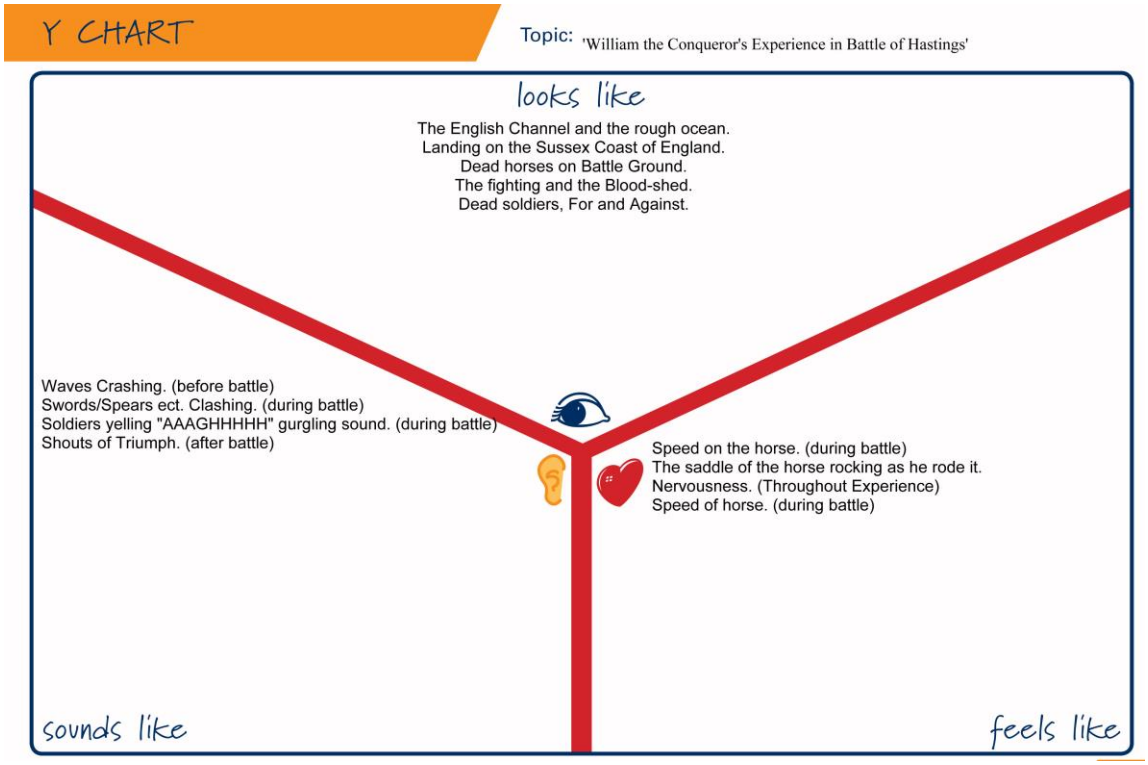
multiple possible outcomes at some node, with rules at some nodes, use a flowchart. Example: Computer programmers sometimes use flowcharts to organize the algorithm before writing a program.



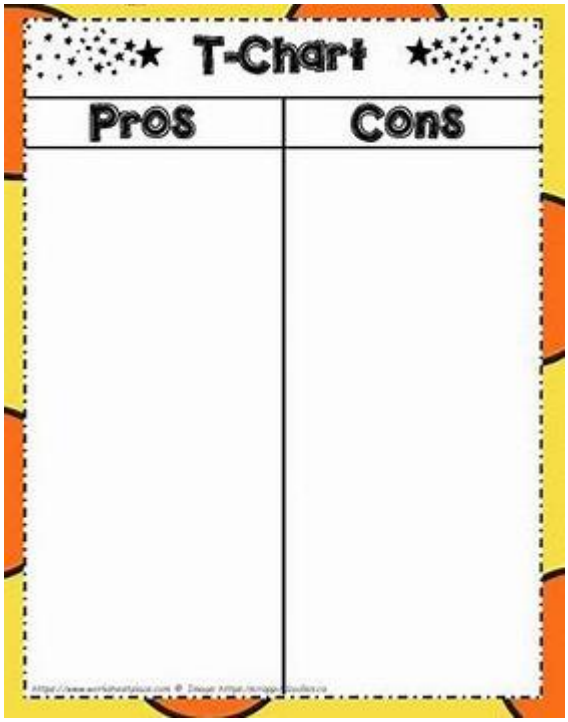
Chart/Matrix Diagram: If the task involves condensing and organizing data about traits of many items, use a chart/matrix. Example: Creating a display of key

inventions, who invented them, when, where and why they were invented, etc.

Y-Chart Diagram: If the task involves analysing and organizing with respect to three qualities, use a Y-Chart. Example: Fill out a Y-Chart to describe what you know about an animal, including what it looks like, what it sounds like, and what it feels like. Or describe a character in a book, including what the character looks like, sounds like, and how the character feels.



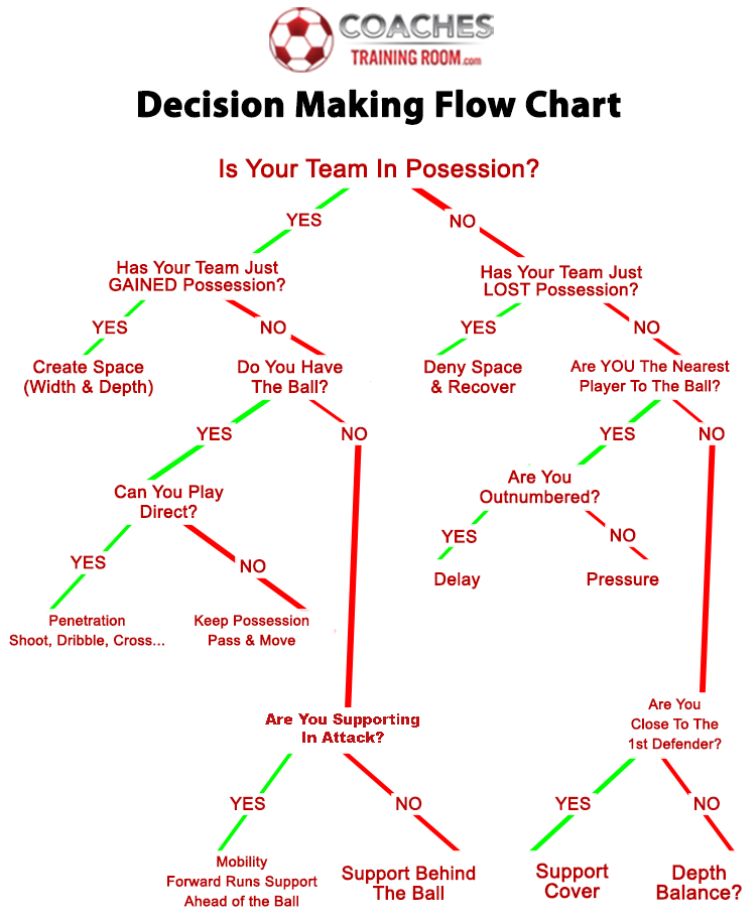
T-Chart Diagram: If the task involves analysing or comparing with two aspects of the topic, use a T-Chart. Example: Fill out a T-Chart to evaluate the pros and cons associated with a decision.



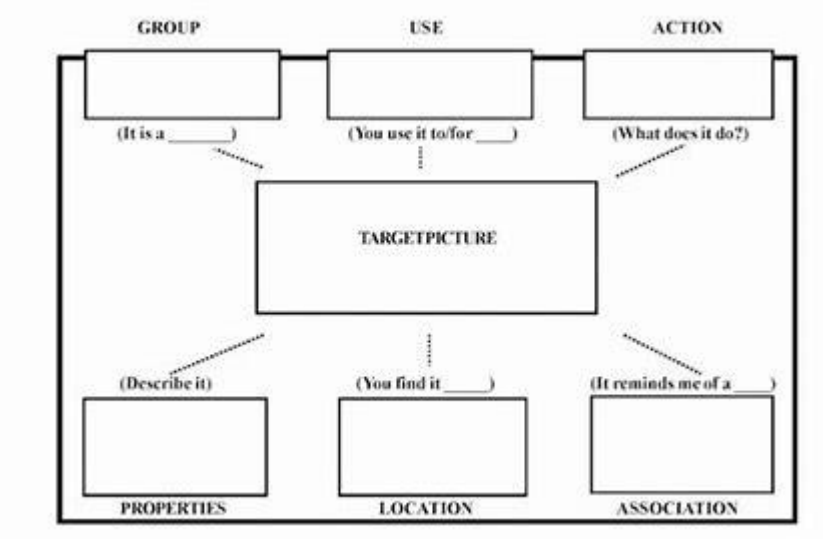
Fact/Opinion: If the task involves distinguishing the facts vs. the opinions in a theme or text, use fact/opinion charts. Example: Fill out a fact/opinion chart to evaluate the facts and opinions presented in a news article.

Fact	Opinion

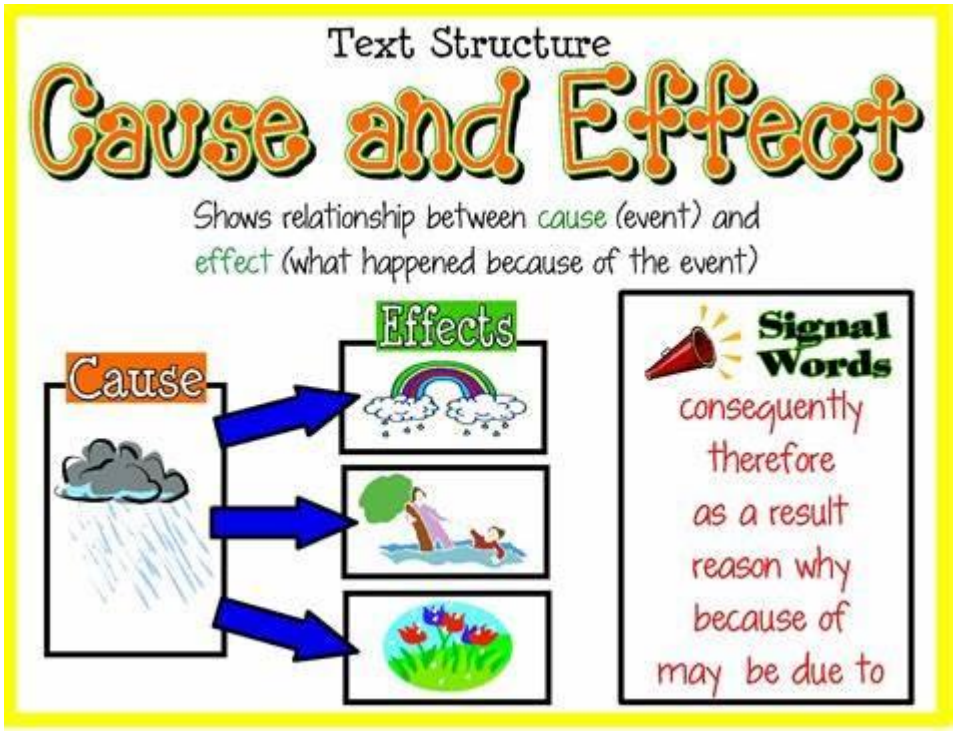
Decision Making Diagrams: If the task is making a decision, use a graphic organiser to enumerate possible alternatives and the pros and cons of each. Example: Fill out a decision making diagram to help decide which elective courses you'd like to take next quarter.



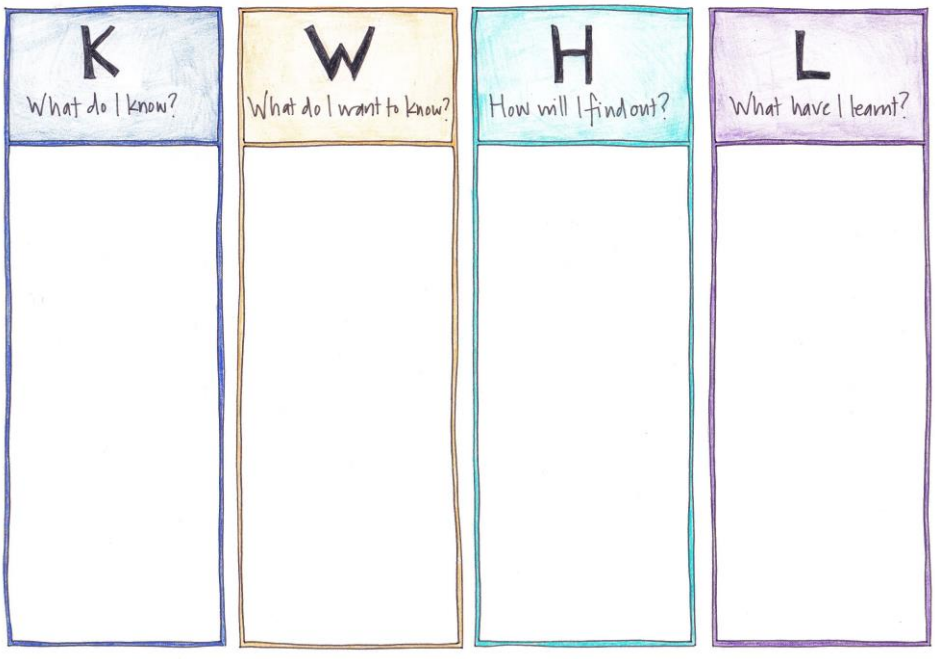
Semantic Feature Analysis Charts: If the task is comparing characteristics among a group of items, use Semantic Feature Analysis . Example: Fill out a Semantic Feature Analysis chart to compare and contrast the care needed for various pets.



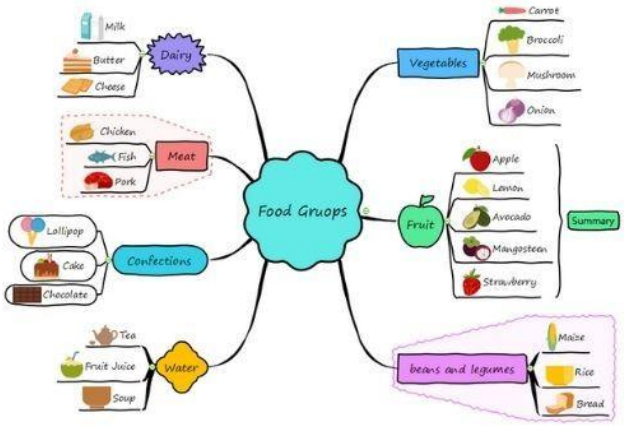
Cause and Effect Diagrams: If the task is examining possible causes and effects in a process, use a cause and effect graphic organiser. Example: Fill out a cause-and-effect diagram to trace the steps in a feedback loop.



KWHL Diagram: If the task involves analysing and organizing what you know and what you want to learn about a topic, use a KWHL chart. **K** stands for what you already KNOW about the subject. **W** stands for what you WANT to learn. **H** stands for figuring out HOW you can learn more about the topic. **L** stands for what you LEARN as you read. Example: Fill out a KWHL chart before, during, and after you read about a topic.



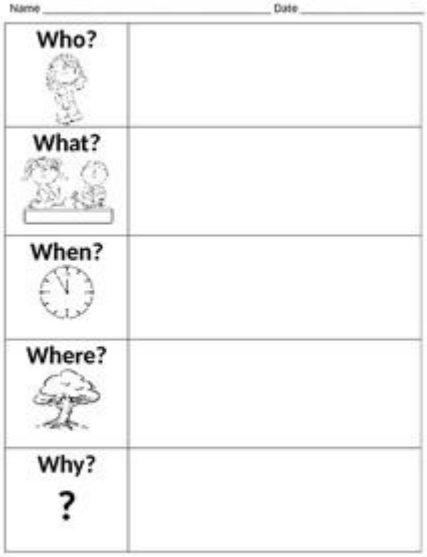
Vocabulary Map: Graphic organisers can be useful in helping a student learn new vocabulary words, having them list the word, its part of speech (noun, verb, adjective, adverb, etc.), a synonym, an antonym, a drawing that represents the word, and a sentence using the word.



Paragraph Structure: These graphic organisers help you organize the structure of a paragraph, including a topic sentence, sentences with support details, and a conclusion sentence.

5 W's Diagram: If the task involves analyzing the Five W's (**W**ho, **W**hen, **W**here,

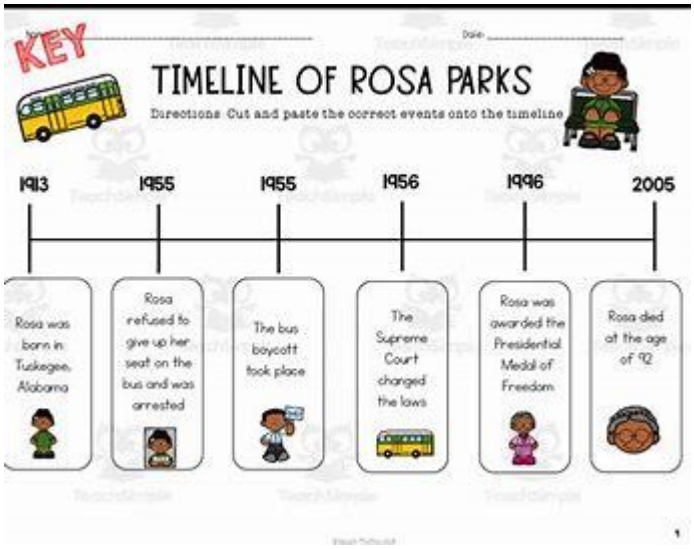
What, and **W**hy) of a story or event. Example: Fill out a 5 W's Chart to help evaluate and understand the major points of a newspaper story.



Story Map: Story maps can help a student summarize, analyse and understand a story or event.

Character Traits: Graphic organisers help the student identify the traits of fictional characters by looking at events surrounding the character in the text.

Biography Diagrams Graphic organisers are useful to help prepare for writing a biography. Before writing, the graphic organiser prompts the student to think about and list the major events in the person's life.



Scientific Method Diagrams: Graphic organisers used to prepare and organize a scientific experiment.

Sketch notes