Lesson Blueprints: Graphic Organizers and Charts
Lesson Title: Overview
Grade Level: Elementary School

Graphic organizers and charts are often used to help students classify, organize, structure, and communicate their ideas. Consider using a graphic organizer to help understand:

- Concepts and relationships
- Categories when brainstorming
- Mind maps for hierarchical information
- Cause and effect
- Comparing and contrasting
- Vocabulary
- Sequencing
- Problem solving

The following graphic organizers and charts are provided in this section:

- **Five Senses Graphic Organizer** students use this chart to help them organize the information provided as well as their thoughts about and responses to a topic based on their five senses.

- **A-Z Chart:** this chart encourages students to come up with a variety of words related to a particular topic. Students organize their thoughts on a subject by associating and writing words in the appropriate letter box. These charts can be used as an introduction to a topic, a way to take notes during the lesson, or a closing activity to review what was learned.

- **Chain of Events Timeline Graphic Organizer** helps students put ideas or events in a sequential order. This helps them see a bigger picture of how something has progressed over time.

- **Frayer Model Graphic Organizer Chart:** helps students break words down into their definitions, characteristics, examples, and non-examples to broaden their understanding of the chosen word.

- **KWL Chart** helps students organize information before, during, and after a unit or lesson. This type of chart is meant to be completed gradually. They can be used to engage students in a new lesson, activate prior knowledge, and monitor students' learning. K-W-L charts can be used across many different content areas and can be adapted to fit your lesson or unit of study.

- **The Problem-Solution Graphic Organizer** gives students the chance to think of solutions to problems you may be discussing in your lesson. Problem-solution graphic organizers can have many different layouts. A few examples are attached to the end of this lesson.

- **The Word Detective Graphic Organizer** helps students learn about a chosen word from multiple sides, and includes the opportunity to develop a definition of their own. These graphic organizers are very helpful when learning character traits.

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