

Lesson Blueprints: Graphic Organizers and Charts

Lesson Title: Word Detective

Grade Level: Elementary School

Project and Purpose

Students will use a graphic organizer to explore a new word from multiple points of entry.

Essential Question

How does using a graphic organizer help us understand many possible meanings and uses of a new vocabulary word?

Materials

- Copies of the Word Detective Graphic Organizer
- Writing tools
- Resource books such as dictionaries, thesauruses, encyclopedias, anchor charts, the Internet, etc.
- Index cards with focus words in context written on them. Consider using the SEL glossary provided in the Teacher dropdown on the CWK website.

Introduction

If possible, dress up as a detective with a trenchcoat, a fedora, and a magnifying glass. Prepare a speech about how you investigate all the clues that surround a mystery, and right now the mystery involves vocabulary.

Direct Instruction (I do)

1. Introduce the graphic organizer. You may choose to print out copies of the attached layout for each of your students or have them draw the organizer in their notebooks.
2. Choose a focus word and show students where to write it on the organizer.
3. Demonstrate how to fill in each box/space with the appropriate information.

Guided Exploration (We do)

Choose another focus word and complete the organizer as a group.

Independent Practice (You do)

1. Have students select a focus word card.
2. Have students begin filling out the boxes on their graphic organizer. Encourage them to use resources around the classroom such as books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, posters etc. You may choose to have them work independently or in small groups.

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Worksheet: Word Detective

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Name _____

Detective's Name: _____

Sentence in which I found the word: _____

Context Clue: _____

Word: _____

Part of Speech: _____

Context Clue: _____

My Own Sentence: _____

My Own Definition: _____

A picture that will remind me of what this word means to me: _____