Graphic Organizer Teaching Notes

How-To Essay

At a Glance
- Describing a step-by-step process, such as how clouds form
- Explaining how to enact a policy
- Explaining how something works, such as a wind turbine, a digital camera, or a telescope

Differentiated Instruction: Lesson 2
For advanced students, ask them to write their paper on a process found in their textbook.

LESSON 1 SUPPORT FOR READING
Step-by-Step Strategy

1. Assign students to read a selection involving a process or cycle. For example, students may read about how composting works or how to research their genealogy. Enter one process on the graphic organizer.

2. Have students skim the selection to find the steps required to complete the process and enter these steps in the graphic organizer. Prompt students to make sure the steps are in the correct order.

3. Have students list any equipment required. Record the answers in the graphic organizer.

4. Tell students to think of a simple activity they do everyday, such as brushing their teeth or answering the phone. Have them fill in a graphic organizer for one of these activities.

LESSON 2 SUPPORT FOR WRITING
Step-by-Step Strategy

1. Ask students to write a descriptive paper about one of their school activities. Explain to students that their audience is a student who is not currently doing the activity, but would like to begin.

2. Display a graphic organizer and model for students how to fill in the information for the process, steps, and equipment.

3. Tell students to complete their own graphic organizers by outlining the steps and equipment used in the activity.

4. Have students use the graphic organizer to write a few paragraphs that describe the activity in detail.

5. Give them the following format for their assignment.
   - Introduce the process.
   - Provide details of the steps and equipment required.
   - Summarize the process and identify its importance.