Graphic Organizer Teaching Notes

Spider Map

At a Glance
- Identifying main ideas and important details in informational selections
- Understanding main ideas and details about characters or people
- Forming main ideas and details about geographic locations or settings

Differentiated Instruction: Lesson 2
For struggling students, provide a list of topics with one corresponding main idea given as a prompt.

LESSON 1 SUPPORT FOR READING

Step-by-Step Strategy
1. Select a topic to analyze from a current reading selection and enter the topic on the graphic organizer.
2. In a group brainstorming session, ask students to list main ideas about the topic. Record the ideas in the graphic organizer.
3. For each main idea, ask students to volunteer details that support or further explain the main ideas. Record these details in the Detail boxes.
4. At the end of the group discussion, ask students to write a one- or two-sentence summary stating the main ideas and the details that support them.

LESSON 2 SUPPORT FOR WRITING

Step-by-Step Strategy
1. Ask students to select a topic from their current reading that they would like to investigate further. Distribute blank copies of the Spider Map or have students access a map online.
2. Tell students to enter their topic in the graphic organizer.
3. Ask them to list main ideas about the topic. Circulate among students to skim their work and provide prompts, if needed.
4. Have students list details they know about each of their main ideas.
5. Tell students to create an outline using their graphic organizer.
6. Give students the following format for their assignment.
   - Begin with a clear sentence stating the topic.
   - Write one sentence for each main idea.
   - Write one sentence for each detail.
7. If you wish, ask students to use the outline to write a paper.