

Flow Map

A *Flow Map* is a combination of graphic organizer and concept map. The distinguishing feature is that when the items being organized are arranged, learners craft a sentence describing the connections between. Students may complete Flow Maps individually or in small groups. Student learning is supported when the specific connections between and among the parts of the map are explicitly stated. When students collaborate to create a Flow Map, the ideas discussed solidify student understanding and reveal possible gaps in knowledge.

How to implement the strategy:

1. Form small groups of students.
2. Prepare a list of concepts, vocabulary words, or key phrases related to a topic of study.
3. Provide index cards for students to write on. Each concept goes on its own card. Sticky notes or small slips of paper may also be used.
4. On a sheet of poster-sized paper, students arrange the cards in a way that makes sense to them. When they are satisfied with the arrangement, they tape the cards down and draw lines connecting the concepts. Concepts may be connected in multiple ways.
5. Students write a sentence on each line, describing how the concepts that line joins are connected.
6. Circulate as students work, listening carefully to the conversations to provide feedback and ask probing questions.
7. Have students share their Flow Maps to give and receive feedback about their thinking from their peers.

Note: This strategy may be used by individual students once they have an understanding of how it works.

Adapted from:

- Marzano, R., Pickering, D. & Pollock, J. (2001). *Classroom Instruction that Works: Research-based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement*, Alexandria, VA. ASCD.

