

Growing readers!

Brought to you by Reading Rockets, Colorín Colorado and LD OnLine

Graphic Organizers to Help Kids with Writing

Graphic organizers are simple yet powerful tools that can help kids with dysgraphia, executive functioning issues, and other issues that can cause trouble with writing. A graphic organizer not only helps break an assignment into smaller steps. It also can help kids organize their thoughts in a very visual way.

There are many different kinds of graphic organizers. The five downloadable ones here are commonly used in grade school, but they can help kids through high school. Each one also comes with an example of what the graphic organizer looks like when it's filled in.

All you need to do to use these graphic organizers is print them out. (The designs are also simple enough that you can quickly draw them by hand.) These graphic organizers are also fillable. So if your child prefers to type, he can type directly on an organizer and then print it out. Choosing the right topic is another way you can encourage your child to write more.

Try these 5 graphic organizers

- Hamburger Paragraph Graphic Organizer (PDF attached)
- Spider Map Graphic Organizer (PDF attached)
- Persuasion Map Graphic Organizer (PDF attached)
- Pro-Con T-Table Graphic Organizer (PDF attached)
- Sequence Chart Graphic Organizer (PDF attached)



This special edition of Growing Readers was created by Understood, a free online resource for parents of children with learning and attention issues.

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Hamburger paragraph

Name: _____

Date: _____

A paragraph is like a hamburger — they both have several layers. Use this graphic organizer to help build a juicy paragraph.

1. For the top layer, write the topic sentence that introduces the main idea.
2. Fill the middle layers with supporting details.
3. The bottom layer holds it all together with a conclusion sentence.

Topic sentence:

Supporting detail:

Supporting detail:

Supporting detail:

Conclusion:

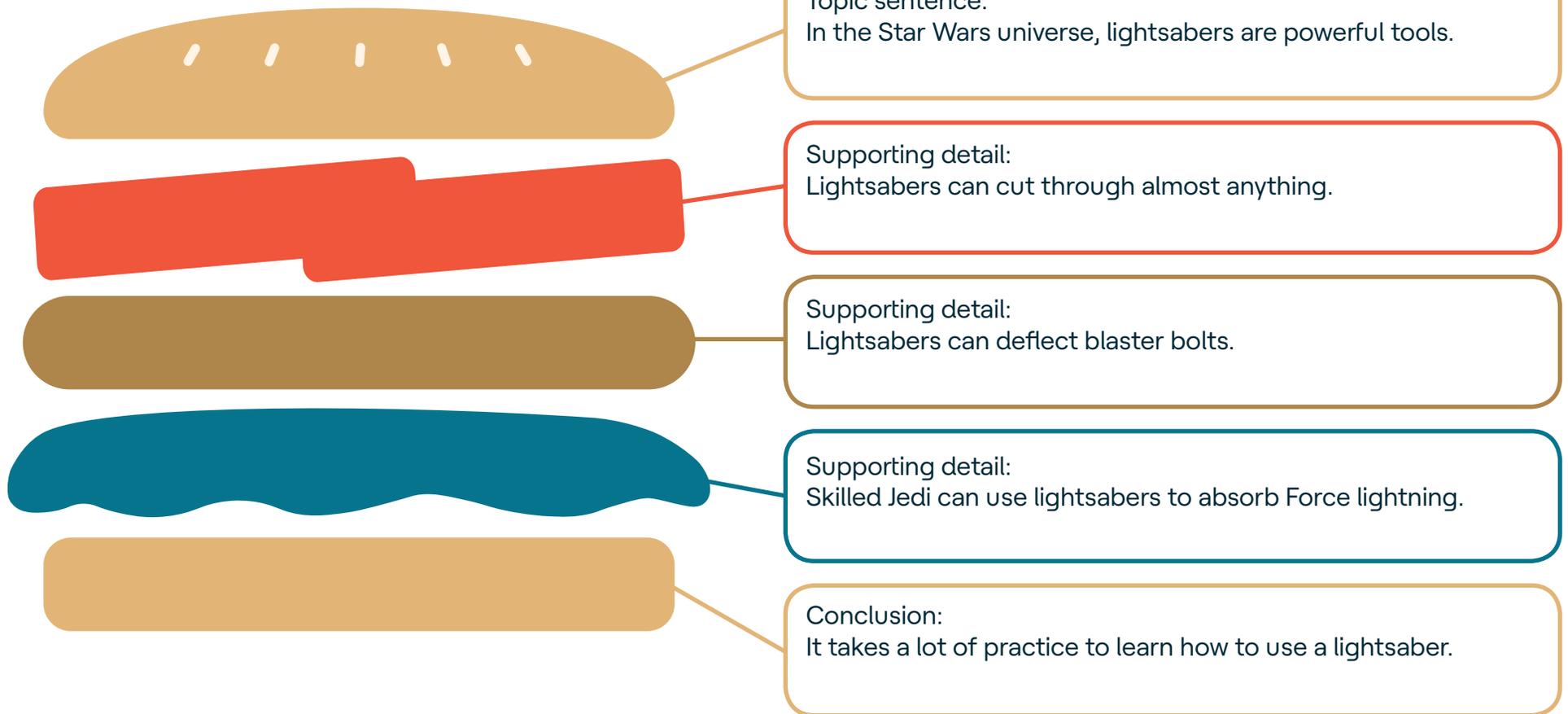
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Persuasion outline

Name: _____

Date: _____

To persuade means to make someone come around to your point of view. To do that, you need to build an argument and support it with details. Here's how:

1. Choose a topic and your position for or against it.
2. Provide three reasons that support your position.
3. Below each reason, write two facts that support it.

Topic: _____

Reason: _____

Supporting detail: _____

Supporting detail: _____

Reason: _____

Supporting detail: _____

Supporting detail: _____

Reason: _____

Supporting detail: _____

Supporting detail: _____

Persuasion outline

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Date: _____

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3. Below each reason, write two facts that support it.

Topic: Muggle-born children should continue to be allowed to attend Hogwarts.

Reason: _____

Have been going to
Hogwarts for a long time

Supporting detail: _____

3 of 4 Hogwarts
founders OK with
Muggle-born

Supporting detail: _____

Only Slytherin was
against it

Reason: _____

Very talented examples
of Muggle-born

Supporting detail: _____

Hermione

Supporting detail: _____

Harry Potter's mom

Reason: _____

Many myths about
Muggle-born

Supporting detail: _____

Ministry of Magic trying
to clear up myths

Supporting detail: _____

Muggle-born have just
as much ability as
pure-bloods

Pros and cons “T” table

Name: _____

Date: _____

“Pros and cons” comes from the Latin phrase that means “for and against.”
Use this T-shaped table to write about two sides of an issue.

1. Pick a topic that can be debated. Write the topic in the box that forms the top of the “T.”
2. In the left column, list the reasons to support one side of the argument.
These are the “pros.”
3. In the right column, list the reasons against that side of the argument.
These are the “cons.”

Topic:

Pros: _____

Cons: _____

Pros and cons “T” table

Name: _____

Date: _____

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Topic: Should the NCAA allow college athletes to be paid?

Pros: _____

• Would help athletes
support themselves in college

• Athletes help the NCAA and
colleges make lots of \$\$

• More athletes might stay all four
years—games would be more
exciting

Cons: _____

• Hard for smaller schools to pay
the same as big schools

• Academics might become less
important to players

• Hard for less popular sports to
pay as much as popular sports

Sequence chart

Name: _____

Date: _____

Whether you're baking a cake or solving a math problem, it helps to have all the steps written out from start to finish. Use this chart to map out the steps.

1. In the top box, write your goal or topic.
2. List the steps from beginning to end in the order you need to complete them.
Put only one step in each box.
3. In the last box, write the last step.
It's OK to leave some boxes blank if you don't have enough steps to fill all of them.

Topic:
1st step: _____
2nd step: _____
3rd step: _____
4th step: _____
5th step: _____
6th step: _____
7th step: _____
Last step: _____

Sequence chart

Name: _____

Date: _____

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1. In the top box, write your goal or topic.
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Topic: How to make a bird feeder out of a paper towel roll.

1st step: Get your materials: an empty paper towel roll, peanut butter, birdseed, 2 popsicle sticks, and a piece of yarn or an old shoelace.

2nd step: Have an adult poke two holes about an inch from the top of the paper towel roll.

3rd step: Thread the yarn or shoelace through the holes to create a loop.

4th step: Have an adult cut two sets of slits in the paper towel roll – one set an inch from the bottom, the other set near the middle.

5th step: Insert a popsicle stick through each set of slits, leaving room for birds to perch on each side.

6th step: Spread lots of peanut butter on the paper towel roll.

7th step: Cover the peanut butter with birdseed.

Last step: Hang your bird feeder outside.