

## Graphic Organizers - Understanding Word Problems

Zollman A. (2009). Mathematical graphic organizers. *Teaching Children Mathematics*, 16(4), 222-229.

Zollman A. (2009). Students using graphic organizers to improve problem solving. *Middle School Journal*, 41(3), 4-12.

**This targeted intervention helps students use a visual and graphic display (graphic organizer) that depicts the relationships between facts, terms, concepts, and ideas.**

### Materials:

- Graphic Organizers (The following are examples of graphic organizers):
  - Four-Corners-and-a-Diamond** has five areas to help solve a word problem.
  - Hierarchical Diagramming** begins with a main idea and all information related is connected by branches.
  - Sequence Chart** is designed to symbolize a sequence of procedures or events in a content area.
  - Compare and Contrast** is designed to compare information across two or three groups or ideas.

### Steps:

1. The teacher models the use of the graphic organizer for solving word problems.
2. The teacher provides guided practice and feedback.
3. The student(s) use the organizer independently to help solve word problems.