

Advance Organisers

Advance organisers are organisational frameworks presented in advance of lessons that emphasise the essential ideas in a lesson or unit. They focus student attention on the topic at hand and help them draw connections between what they already know and the new knowledge to be learned. *Schoen and Schoen (2003)* recommend advance organisers, noting that they help students understand key concepts that they will be exposed to in a text. For example, when webs are used as advance organisers, students can see connections between words or phrases and the topic by following symbols and arrows.

Generalisations from “*Classroom Instruction That Works*”

Four generalisations are identified in the research on advance organisers:

1. As is the case with cues and questions, advance organisers should focus on what is important instead of what is unusual.
2. Again as with cues and questions, higher-level advance organisers produce deeper learning than lower-level advance organisers.
3. Advance organisers are best used to give structure to information that is not well organised.
4. There are four main types of advance organisers: expository, narrative, skimming, and graphic. Different types of organisers can be used for different purposes and produce different results.

W.A.L.T

What Are We Learning Today?

This is another form of signalling learning intentions. If this strategy is used then it should conclude the learning episode with the question, what have we learnt today?

Another Advanced Organiser Format

Title (or topic):

Rationale:

New Words:

Main Ideas:

In today's lesson we are:

At the end of this lesson:

You will know:

Another strategy is to have a worksheet that you hand out to the students as you meet and greet them upon entry in to the room. They are then expected to get on with the learning set by the worksheet.