

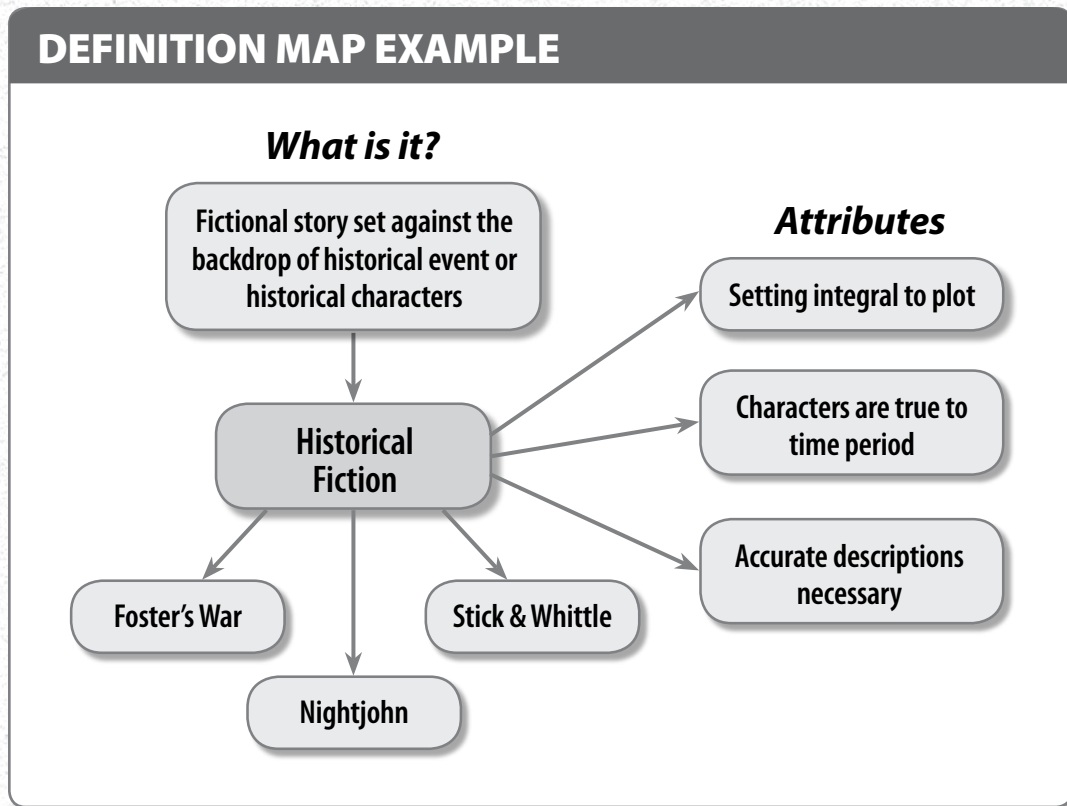
Vocabulary Graphic Organizers

You have probably used a lot of graphic organizers over the years. You have used them to take notes on a story you are reading, to compare two countries or trace a time line in your social studies classroom, and to outline causes and effects or a sequence of events for a writing assignment. You can also use graphic organizers to learn vocabulary words. Here are some of those vocabulary graphic organizers. Look them over and use some of them as you take notes on vocabulary words in this notebook.

Definition Map

A Definition Map is a good organizer to use for an academic term. In your social studies class, academic terms might be words or phrases like “monarch” or “political system.” In your language arts classes, they might be words or phrases like “symbolism” or “character traits.” In a Definition Map, the term you want to remember goes in the center box—in our example, the term is “Historical Fiction.” First you write the definition (What is it?). In the boxes on the right, you identify its attributes (characteristics or features). Finally, in the boxes below the term, you provide examples.

DEFINITION MAP EXAMPLE



Circle Map

A Circle Map can be used to study and learn any word or term. You start with the word itself, and below the word you create a circle that you divide into four sections. In the top left section, you write the definition. In the top right section, you write a synonym for the word or, if English is your second language, write the word as it is spelled in your first language. In the lower right corner, write an antonym, a word that has the opposite meaning. In the lower left corner, draw some image that will remind you of the meaning of the word. And, finally, write a new sentence using the word.

CIRCLE MAP MODEL

Target Word Goes Here

definition

synonym or
the word in your
first language

a picture of
the word

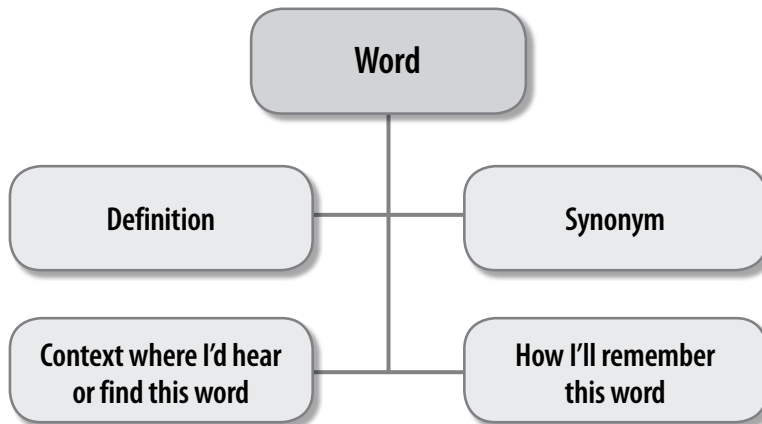
antonym

Write the word in a sentence in this box.

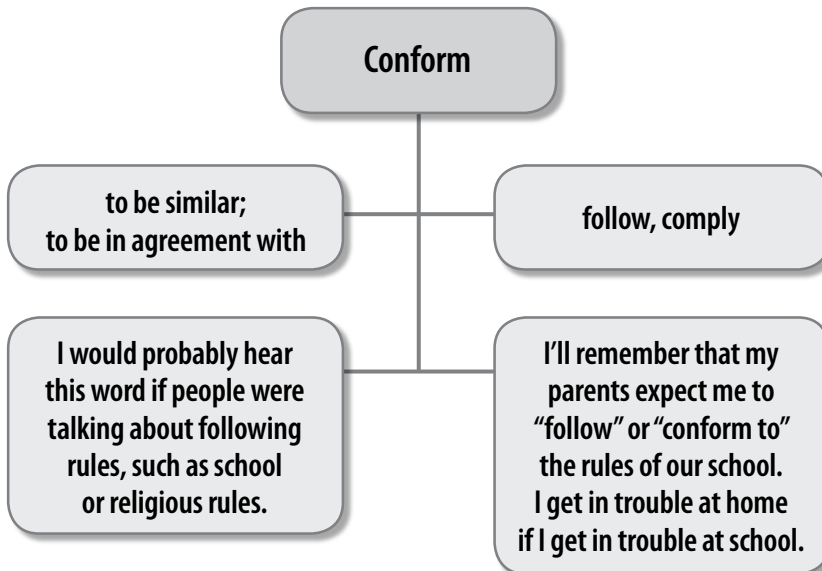
Association Map

An Association Map is a simple graphic organizer that helps you learn the word by making associations between the word and its definition, its synonym, the context in which you might hear it used, and a hint to help you remember it.

ASSOCIATION MAP MODEL

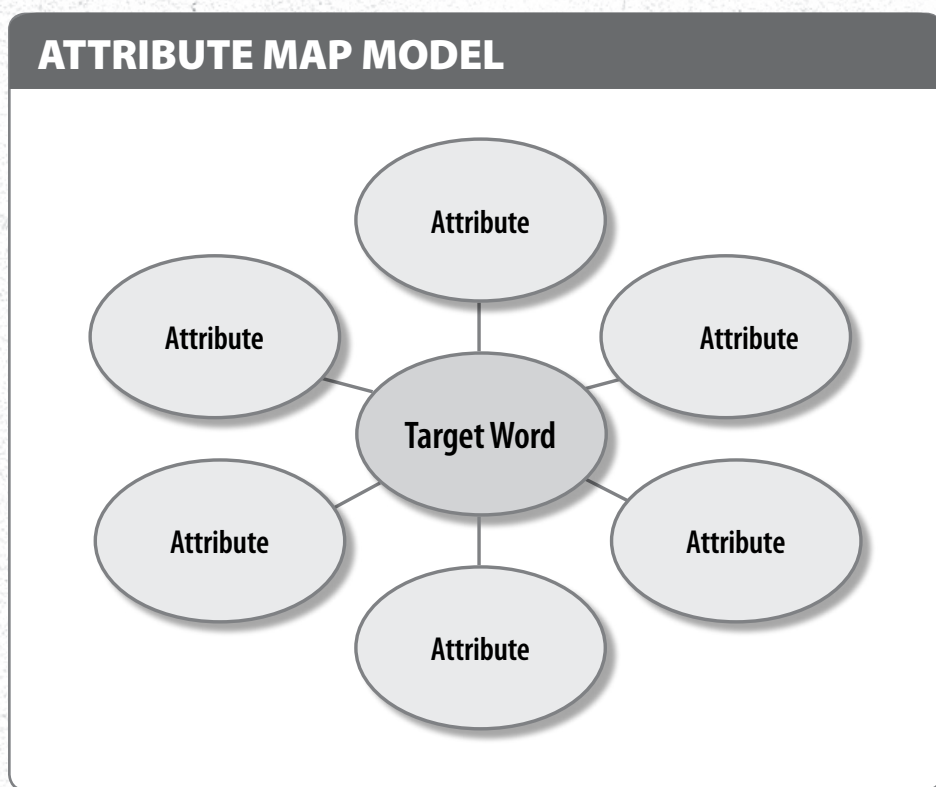


ASSOCIATION MAP EXAMPLE



Attribute Map

An Attribute Map follows the format of a graphic organizer that is sometimes called a cluster diagram or a spider map. It will work for any word or term. You simply write the word or term you want to remember in a circle in the middle of the page. Then you draw lines out from that circle to other circles. In each of the other circles you write an attribute of the term. An attribute is a characteristic, or feature, of something else. For example, if the target word or term you want to learn is “setting,” you might list the following attributes: time, place, descriptive details, reveals character, suggests theme, and creates an emotional effect or mood.

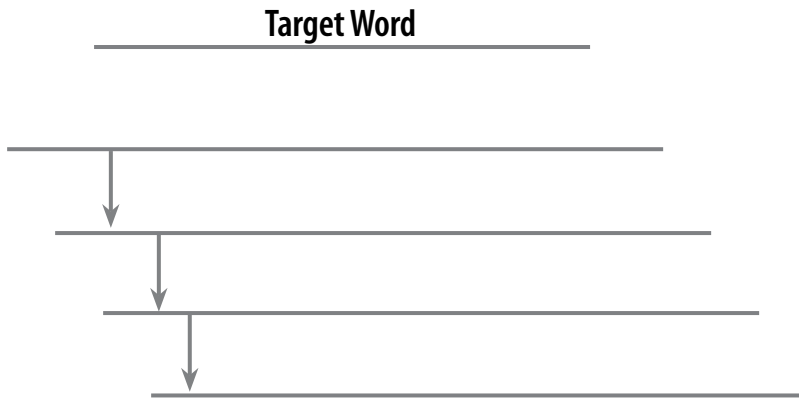


From Context to Context

From Context to Context is a graphic organizer in which you keep expanding the contexts of the word, or the surroundings that can show its meaning. By studying the word in its different contexts, you learn the full meaning of the word and make it your own.

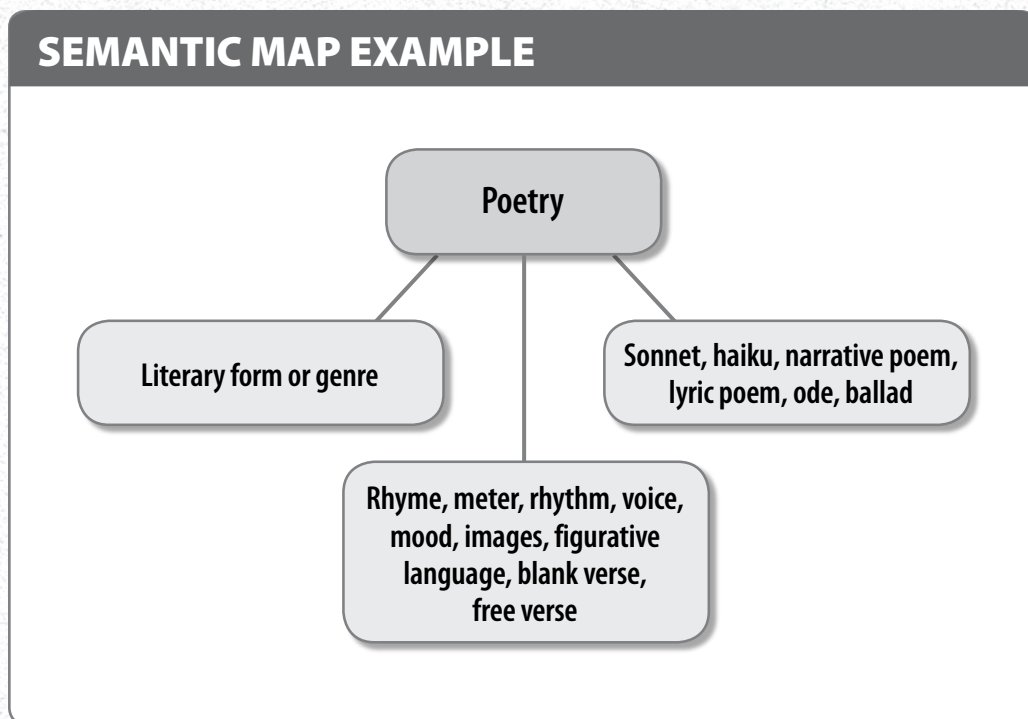
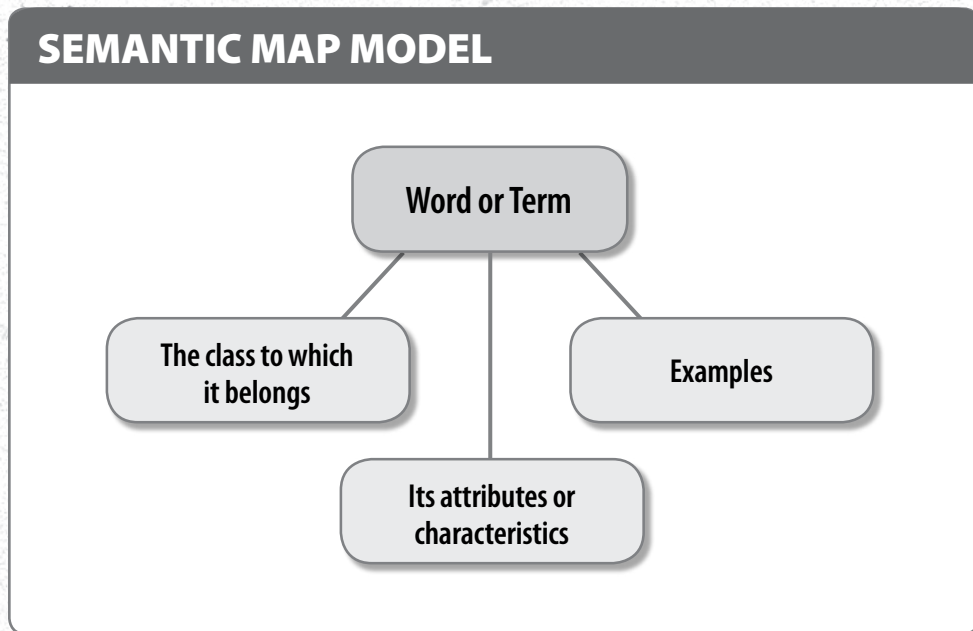
FROM CONTEXT TO CONTEXT MODEL

1. On the first line of the graphic organizer, write a sentence in which you use the word.
2. On the next line (one level down) use your own words to explain your understanding of the word from the context.
3. On the third line (next level down) write the dictionary or thesaurus definition of the word.
4. Finally, on the last line use the word in a sentence of your own.



Semantic Map

A Semantic Map is a map of a word or term and its meanings. It can take any shape that makes sense to the person creating the map. In this semantic map, you analyze the word or term you are studying in three ways. First, you identify the class, or group of things your word or term falls into. Then you identify the attributes (characteristics or features) of the word or term. Finally, you identify a number of examples of the concept.



Multi-Word Web or Diagram

A Multi-Word Web or a Multi-Word Diagram is useful when you want to try to learn and remember a number of words at once. For example, when you are reading a chapter in your science or social studies book, you need to try to remember all of the new terms. When you are reading a story or play, you may need to learn a number of new vocabulary words that occur in the selection.

To create a Multi-Word Web or Diagram for the pieces you read in your language arts class, you might start with one of these concepts. For a story, you might start with the name of the story itself, its central character, or its plot, and then create your web or diagram by constructing sentences using the vocabulary words from the selection. For a nonfiction piece, you might start with the title of the essay or the article or with its topic or main idea. Then, in the same way, proceed to construct the web or diagram using the selection vocabulary in related sentences.

SHORT STORY EXAMPLE



For a nonfiction piece, you might start with the title of the essay or the article or with its topic or main idea. Then, in the same way, proceed to construct the web or diagram using the selection vocabulary in related sentences.

