



4.1: Using a Graphic Organizer (Kidspiration)

Prerequisite Skills and Knowledge

- ∞ Students need to know how to use the software Kidspiration, create a simple web, and create a topic that could be used as an article for a school newspaper.

Time Required

- ∞ Mini-Lesson and Guided Practice: 10-15 minutes

Materials

- ∞ Computer lab with Kidspiration software installed, Printer w/ copy paper for printing out webs.

Intended Learning

- ∞ Students will be able to create a graphic organizer in Kidspiration that demonstrates their understanding of the attributes that are necessary to create a feature article about a subject they choose.

District Technology Standards Uses Technology Effectively

- ∞ Graphing Organization Tools (Kidspiration)
- ∞ Uses webbing, mapping, paragraph development

Big Ideas from Literacy Guide - Unit 2, Writing

- ∞ Develop understanding of feature article attributes.
- ∞ Develop specific focus for topic.
- ∞ Organize facts in a way that helps readers learn about the topic.

Mini-Lesson

Notes

Connection - preparing students' thinking
How does a reporter choose a topic for a newspaper article?
What information does an article need to contain?

Teaching - Mini Lesson

Students should be at their computers in the lab, and the teacher should have a newspaper article to read aloud. After sharing the article, whole group discussion on what attributes made the article interesting and newsworthy. Write definitions on white board for keywords most newspaper articles must have, content, characters, relevance. Tell students that they need to think of a topic that could be used as an article in a newspaper. This can be something unique they experienced, a school event, or a family adventure. Give them time to brainstorm, then they can turn to a partner to pair/share ideas.

Active Engagement - Guided Practice

You will model how to open the program “Kidspiration” and select “New” for a new writing page. Tell students they can choose their own icons for the graphic organizer, and demonstrate how to change the font, size, and color of the text they type in their icons. They should have at least 5 ideas they can develop for their article. Show how the linking tool works to connect their ideas. Create a web as an example on any topic you choose. Tell students they can use the graphics library in the software to add pictures to their work. Use the “print” option under the “file” menu to print out the example. All students will print out their finished products.

Independent Practice

Teacher

- ∞ Walk around and monitor student progress, helping individuals as necessary.
- ∞ Use a class roster to monitor student work, check off complete assignments, or track student progress/topics.

Students

- ∞ Create their graphic organizers for a feature article in a newspaper using the “Kidspiration” program with their own ideas, graphics, and style/designs.
- ∞ Type their names on their completed assignments, and print out their work.

Differentiation:

Students who are working faster, or finished, may begin developing their ideas into paragraphs in the “Outline” tool of Kidspiration. Students who are struggling may need time to look at online newspaper articles to help generate ideas or content.

Sharing/Closure

- ∞ After students have printed their ideas for articles, have them share with a partner close by. Choose 2 or 3 articles to share with the class and demonstrate how they could be developed into a feature article.

Assessment

- ∞ Monitor each student on your class roster. You can use a score of 1-4 for progress during the completion of their organizers. A perfect score of “4” would be given for students meeting all the criteria for generating a topic for a feature article, including six or more ideas to be developed, and layout/design of their graphic organizer.

