



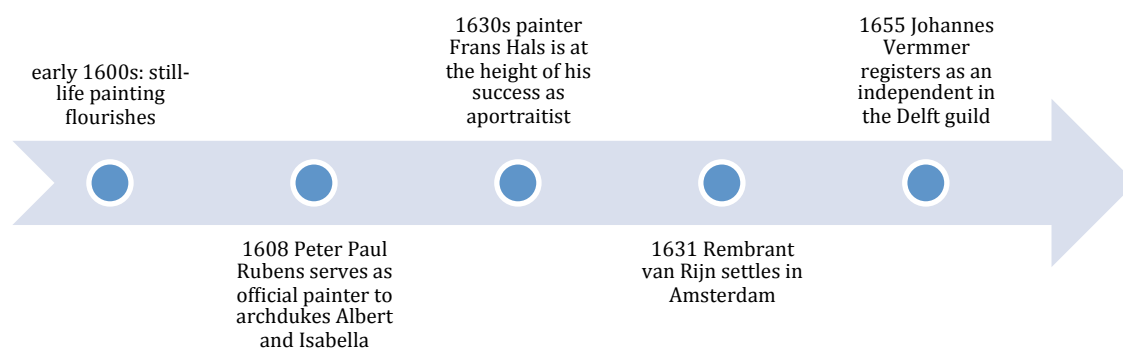
Graphic Organizers

Because each academic discipline has a unique way of understanding the world, course content can be organized and presented using different thought patterns. For example, course content can be focused on *chronological sequences, processes, comparisons, cause and effect relationships, or categories and subclasses*. These thought patterns can in-turn impact how one might graphically organize information when taking notes from lectures or textbooks. The following are some examples of how information can be visually represented in notes using a variety of organizational techniques in order to add meaning and structure to information.

Chronological and Sequential:

Some courses will focus on the order in which events occur over time, especially if the subject is dealing with past events, such as history, government, or anthropology. In such cases, *arrows* are useful for timelines to organize information chronologically.

Timeline

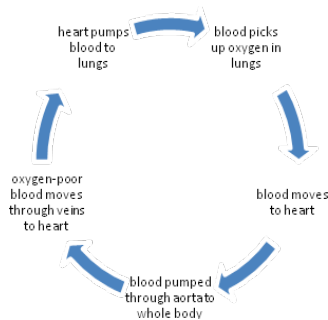


Some natural science, computer science, or economics courses will focus on steps, processes or cycles, which might be represented graphically with *sequential* or *cyclical* diagrams.

Sequential Diagram



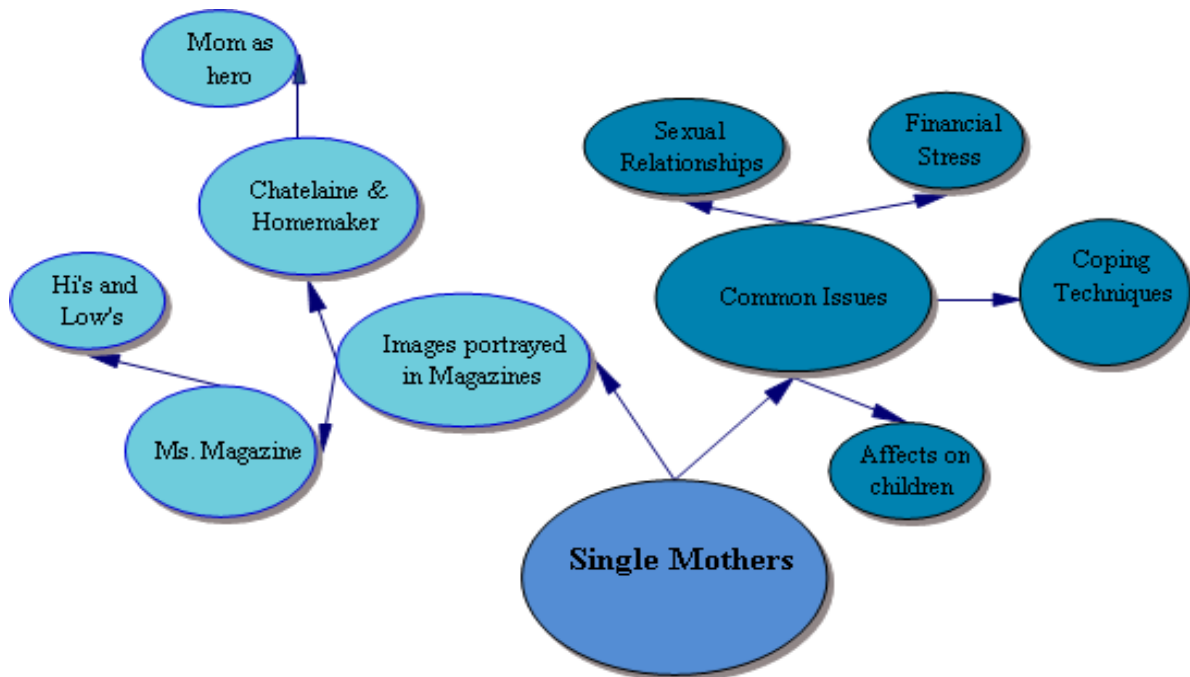
Cyclical Diagram



Relationships:

Relationships and connections between different ideas are commonly drawn out in course discussions, and students will often need to express their understanding of relationships in courses like sociology, psychology, or ecology. Sometimes the nature of these relationships may not be immediately apparent. In such cases, one useful strategy is to start by drawing a *cluster* or a *mind map* until the relationships can be more clearly established.

Mind Map/Cluster Diagram



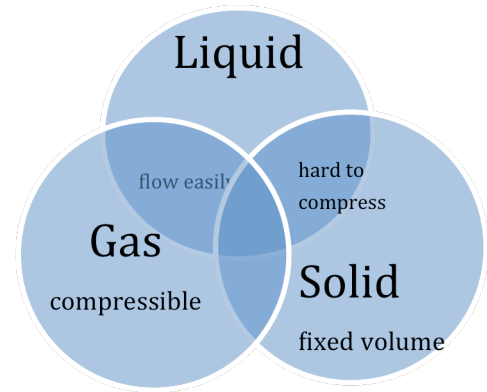
Relationships can also be organized using a variety of other diagrams. For example, comparisons could be organized using *t-bars*, *table charts*, or *Venn diagrams*.

Compare and Contrast (T-bar)

Freud's unconscious Jung's unconscious

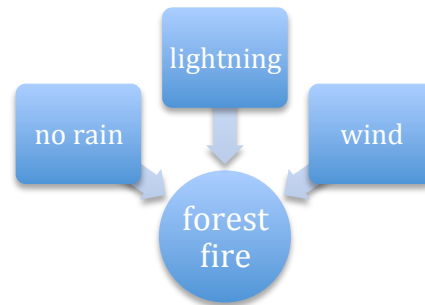
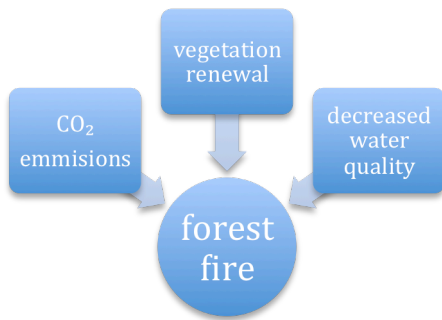
- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Id and Superego • Negative view • Emphasis on the individual | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective and personal • Positive view • Individual and collective |
|--|---|

Compare and Contrast (Venn Diagram)



Cause and Effect (Flowcharts)

Flowcharts are useful to help illustrate cause and effect relationships.



Hierarchies (Pyramid and Branch)

Pyramid or *branch* diagrams can be helpful for demonstrating hierarchies, rankings, and subclasses.

