Graphic Organizers and Reading/Writing Genres

ESL reading/writing tasks/genres	Possible Graphic Organizer (you will find templates for these at the websites listed on the last page)
Lower-levels of ABE/ESL	
Write a letter to school	Letter scaffold Flow chart (describing reasons)
Write a short narrative	Time lines Linear string

Write a short description
    Describe a holiday
    Typical Day
	Word Webs
	Charts

Intermediate-Advanced	
Compare cultures	Venn diagram, comparison matrix
Write a resume	Word webs, time lines, continua
Personal stories	Time lines; Linear string; tree diagram
Biographies	KWL; time lines
Transition to college level:	
Narration	Linear String; Time lines
Description	KWL charts, Tree Diagrams, Cornell Notes; Main idea web; Circle Diagram
Process Analysis	Linear String; Flow chart
Division and Classification	Hierarchy Diagram
Compare and Contrast	Venn Diagram, compare/contrast charts, T-charts Comparison Matrix
Cause effect	Flow Charts, Cause/effect charts

Some things to remember:
- Use a graphic organizer as learners prepare for reading OR writing.
- Use a graphic organizer as learners read a text type (compare/contrast; description).
- Use the same graphic organizer to prepare to write a similar text type.
- Have a peer use the same graphic organizer as they read their peer's writing. It's a great way to give feedback on the organization of a text.
- Use graphic organizers for note taking while listening or reading.

Graphic Organizers as Scaffolds for Critical thinking
- Understanding genres is understanding organization of a text, both as a reader and as a writer.
- Most students need to record and represent information in more than one way to understand it.
- The way learners' organization knowledge affects their academic performance (Di Tommaso, 2005).
- Representing similarities and differences in graphic or symbolic form enhances students' understanding and ability to use knowledge (Bransford et al, 1999).

Visit these websites for ready-made organizers and more ideas on how to use them:
http://www.graphic.org/goindex.html
http://www.graphicorganizers.com/resources.html
http://edhelper.com/teachers/graphic_organizers.htm
http://www.writedesignonline.com/organizers/
http://www.cast.org/publications/ncac/ncac_go