

The Frayer Four Square – Word Study Method

The Frayer Model is a type of graphic organizer that uses a four-square model to determine, clarify, and analyze word meaning and structure. The selected word to focus on is written in an oval in the middle of a page or chart paper. At times, the part of speech is also included in the oval. Each of the four squares is blank and has a heading at the top. The headings or labels on the top of each square include a variation of the words definition, attributes, characteristics, synonyms, examples, antonyms, or nonexamples.

The Frayer Model focuses on studying one word at a time with a prescribed technique and sequence to analyze and decipher the meaning and structure of the unknown word. Photographs or illustrations may also be added to help visualize the word.

The Frayer Model is created based upon the background knowledge, prior knowledge, or previous experiences of a person's life. Making connections increases comprehension and vocabulary development. The Frayer Model enables readers to understand attributes of words and relationships between concepts or word structure.

When is it Appropriate to Use?

This graphic organizer is most appropriately used when teaching lessons in word analysis or introducing new vocabulary terms in text or in content. The Frayer Model can be used at any grade level or in any subject matter instruction.

The Frayer Model teaches vocabulary by teaching synonyms, antonyms, examples, nonexamples, and characteristics or attributes of the word.

