



The Lexile Framework for Reading in Action

Sociograms

- Pre-Reading
- During Reading
- Post Reading

Description: Sociograms are graphic representations of structures or relationships. Students can describe interpersonal relationships of characters in works of fiction, relationships among historical figures, or even relationships among scientific concepts or processes.

How It Works: Sociograms allow students to think creatively and express their understanding of the reading material in novel ways. While students can ultimately determine the look and structure of their own sociograms, some general conventions will help students get started. Students can place the primary character(s) or theme(s) at the center of the diagram and let the physical distance between persons and/or facts reflect the historical or actual distance between the people, places, or facts. The size/shape/symbol of a character or concept can be a symbolic representation of each personality or concept. Students can show the direction of a relationship by an arrow or line, which can be creatively applied to represent different conditions by being a jagged line, a wavy line, or a thick line. Substantiated relationships can be portrayed with a solid line and inferred relationships with a broken line. Living people can be circled with a solid line, historical people can be circled with a broken line. Students can illustrate the tone and or theme of a piece by using colors or visual symbols.

How It Can Be Used: Sociograms can be useful in all content areas, but are best when applied to concepts, processes, or interpersonal relationships that have various connections.

- ◆ Explore creative ways to explain historical events or scientific processes with shapes, arrows, lines, and other meaningful symbols.
- ◆ Sociograms can be done as an individual assignment or can be developed in groups. Each group may be assigned a different portion, chapter, or unit as part of a jigsaw, and then combined to create a comprehensive picture for the entire class.