

SI Showcase: KWL Charts

Supplemental Instruction
Iowa State University

Advance Organizers are “organizational frameworks teachers present to students prior to teaching new content to help them prepare for what they are about to learn. Advance organizers take the surprise out of what is to come, help students retrieve what they already know about a topic, and focus them on the new information.”¹

KWL Charts are one type of advance organizer. There are three parts to a KWL chart:

- ◆ K-What I know: Students document what they know about a topic.
- ◆ W-What I want to know: Students document what they think they know about a topic.
- ◆ L-What I learned: Following (or during) an activity, students document what they learned about a topic.

When to use a KWL Chart:

- ◆ Students can complete the “K” and “W” at the start of an SI session to revisit their prior knowledge and document what they think they know. This serves as a self assessment.
- ◆ Students can complete the “L” at the end of an SI session to document what they learned, as a self-assessment of their experiences in the SI session.
- ◆ Small groups or pairs of students can develop a KWL chart together to combine what they collectively know. This sharing method helps students to recognize details they might not think of alone.
- ◆ Similarly, students can complete a large, KWL chart written on a board. As students walk into an SI session, students can add to the chart. The Leader can review the “K” and “W” as it is documented, to know how to facilitate learning during the SI session.

¹ Marzano, R. J., Pickering, D. J., & Pollock, J. E. (2001). *Classroom instruction that works: Research-based strategies for increasing student achievement*.

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Name: _____

Topic: _____

Date: _____

K What I Know:	W What I Want to Know:	L What I Learned:

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