



Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives

Teacher Guide: Using an Ideogram (Words and Images)

What is an Ideogram?

- An **Ideogram** is a visual thinking tool that helps students organize ideas in layers around a central concept.

Unlike a traditional mind map, an Ideogram:

- expands outward from a core theme.
- shows how ideas grow, influence one another, and lead to consequences.
- encourages systems thinking.

Importantly, Ideograms can include:

- words and short phrases
- symbols
- sketches
- images
- visual metaphors

Students do not need to rely only on written explanations. Images often communicate thinking just as powerfully.

Why Use Words AND Images?

Encouraging both words and visuals:

- supports diverse learners.
- engages creative and analytical thinking.
- helps students express complex ideas.
- connects to visual literacy skills.
- makes abstract concepts concrete.

For example, in the centre (Stereotypes), students might:

- write “generalizing”
- draw a stick figure with a label
- sketch identical faces to represent oversimplification

In the second ring (Influences):

- write “media”
- draw a phone
- sketch a speech bubble



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- Draw a TV

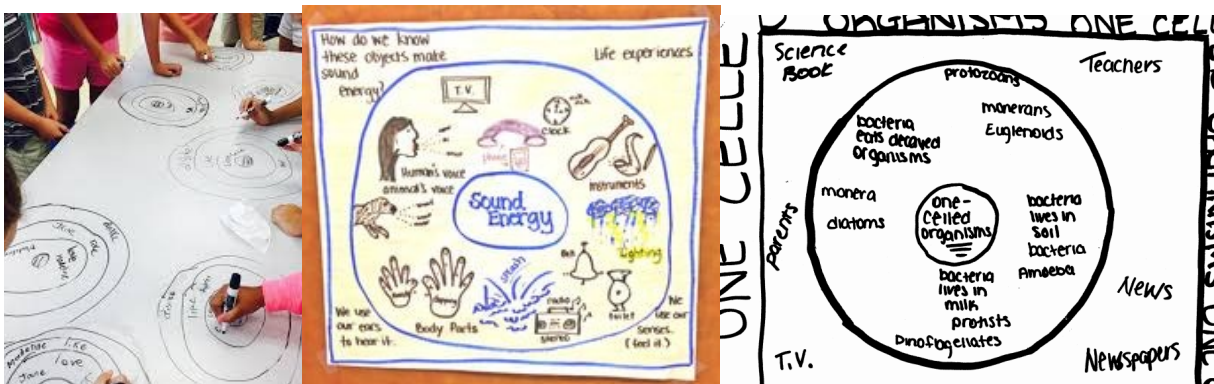
In the outer ring (Consequences):

- write "exclusion"
- draw a person standing outside a circle
- sketch a broken bridge to symbolize division

Beyond the circle: (Student Action)

- picture of themselves
- write positive actions they can do
- show community

Examples:



How to Introduce This to Students

You might say:

"Your ideogram can include both words and images.

Some ideas are easier to draw than explain.

You can use symbols, stick figures, arrows, or short phrases.

The goal is to show your thinking visually."

You can also reassure them:

- "This is not an art assignment. The drawings are tools for thinking."

Teacher Facilitation Tips

- Model one example with both word + symbol.
- Celebrate simple drawings (stick figures are fine).
- Encourage arrows between rings if students see connections.
- Remind them that clarity of thinking matters more than artistic skill.



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Why This Works for Your Stereotypes Unit

Using visuals reinforces your larger goal:

- Stereotypes are constructed → reinforced → expanded → acted upon.

The visual layering mirrors that progression.