

Structured Overview

What is a Structured Overview and why is it important?

A Structured Overview (Vacca & Vacca, 1989) is a visual outline of information. It provides a “big picture” of the concepts being studied and their relationships to one another. When students view the outline, they will have a good idea of the important ideas in a text or lesson and how they are related.

How can I use a Structured Overview with my students?

With a Structured Overview, you present information about a key concept in a hierarchical order to show relationships among the pieces of information. To develop an overview, put inclusive concepts above subordinate ones. The connecting lines among concepts clearly show the relationships among pieces of information. Students can use Structured Overviews to understand and study information. An example of a Structured Overview on recycling follows:

