

# OPTIC

Many students mistakenly give visuals only a quick glance or even skip over them entirely. But these graphic materials should be scrutinized as carefully and as systematically as paragraphs. The OPTIC system will help students take an organized approach to this task.

The five letters in the word OPTIC (pertaining to the eye) provide a system for remembering the five steps for analyzing a visual:

**O** is for overview.

- \*Conduct a brief overview of the visual.

**P** is for parts.

- \*Zero in on the parts of the visual.

- \*Read all labels.

- \*Note any elements or details that seem important.

**T** is for title.

- \*Read the title of the visual to be clear on the subject it is covering.

**I** is interrelationships.

- \*Use the title as the theory and the parts of the visual as clues to detect and specify the interrelationships (connections) in the graphic.

**C** is for conclusion.

- \*Draw a conclusion about the visual as a whole.

- What does the visual mean?

- Why was it included with the text?

- \*Summarize the message of the visual in one-two sentences.