

**Strategy:** Advance Organizer/ Mental Model/ Comprehension Monitoring

**Content:** Authoring software

**Title:** Picture This

**Number of participants:** One or more.

**Time required:** 30 minutes.

**Target Audience:** Beginning multimedia authoring students.

**Goal of Activity:** To learn a a generic model of multimedia authoring as an advance organizer/mental model for learning how to use any authoring software

**Purpose of script:** To present the generic model of multimedia authoring and to use it to generate questions about the functions and methods of an authoring software. To describe the use of the generic model as a self-test template to focus learning and to monitor progress.

**Learning Outcomes, Gagné's Taxonomy:** Defined concepts.

**Learning Outcomes, HEO Taxonomy:** Understanding.

**Learner Characteristics:** Curiosity, anxiety.

**Entry Skills:** Ability to monitor their own progress.

**Setting:** Computer lab.

**Media:** Computers with authoring software installed.

**Process:**

1. Present the generic authoring software diagram.
2. Discuss the functions represented by each of the elements of the diagram. Discuss how the functions are related to each other.
3. Advise students to use the diagram as a checklist for investigating features of the authoring software they are learning to use.
4. Advise the students to use the diagram as a self-test template to assess their understanding of the authoring software they are learning to use.

**Strategy Assessment:**

1. The generic diagram accurately represents the elements of the authoring software to be learned.
2. The instructor's presentation emphasizes similarities and differences between the generic diagram and the authoring software to be learned.
3. Students are able to transfer knowledge from the generic diagram to the authoring software to be learned.
4. Students are able to monitor their own progress.

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**Reference:** West, C. K., Farmer, J. A., & Wolff, P. M. (1991). Instructional design: Implications from cognitive science. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.