Graphic Text

Reading Graphic Text can be very challenging. There is usually a lot of small writing in the form of charts, tables, graphs or maps. Knowing how to read Graphic Text is essential to your day-to-day life.

Graphics are used for at least 3 purposes: to explain, to persuade and to tell stories. Just because graphics are "visual pictures" doesn't mean you can relax when you read them. Each graphic makes unique demands on you as the reader, who must choose the strategy that will work best (Reader's Handbook 541).

Plan for reading a graphic text:
1. **Scan** the graphic to develop an overall impression of its content and possible meaning.
2. **Read** all of the text, including any captions or other text.
3. **Tell in your own words** what the graphic shows.
4. **Think about the quality, meaning, and purpose** of the information. Ask yourself, "Is the information in this graphic from a reliable source? Does the information seem unbiased and complete?"
5. **Make a connection** with the graphic. What are the implications for your own life? How does the graphic relate to other information?

READING TASK
Use the Go Schedule that is on the reverse of this page to look at one form of graphic text: a bus schedule. Answer the following questions and then fill out the Graphic Text Organizer.

1. What days of the week does this schedule apply to?
2. If I left from Bramalea City Centre at 7:00a.m., what time would I arrive at the York Mills Subway station?
3. If I left from Humber College at 6:37p.m., what time would I arrive at Yorkdale Subway station?
4. If a time is listed as 22:40, what time would that be on a 12-hour clock?
5. What time would I have to leave from the Brampton Bus Terminal to get to Pearson Airport by 6:00p.m.?
6. What will get me from Steeles and Bramalea Rd. to the Yorkdale Subway station FASTER: the 7:29 a.m. bus or the 7:27a.m. bus? Explain your answer.
7. When was this schedule last updated? Provide the date.