



## INTRODUCTORY LESSON FOR THE COMPARE AND CONTRAST TUTORIAL

### HELP LEE DECIDE

#### **Goals:**

1. Students will understand the concept of compare and contrast.
2. Students will understand the concepts of compare and contrast by using their prior knowledge by using samples from their everyday life.

#### **Materials:**

computer, internet access, Help Lee Decide  
([http://www.literacymatters.org/18under/cc\\_activites.htm](http://www.literacymatters.org/18under/cc_activites.htm))

#### **Background information:**

For basic information on compare and contrast see the Compare and Contrast page at:  
<http://www.literacymatters.org/content/text/compare.htm>

#### **Procedure:**

##### **Teacher lead discussion**

1. Teacher asks students the following questions to activate students' prior knowledge:

What is compare?

- \* Compare is seeing similarities or how things are alike.

Examples of compare:

- Both dogs and elephants have legs.
- Both soccer and basketball use a ball.

What is contrast?

- \* Contrast is seeing differences or how things are different.

Examples of contrast:

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<http://www.literacymatters.org>

- You could have a dog for a pet at home; elephants are too big to be pets in an average home.
- In soccer you cannot touch the ball with your hands, in basketball you can.

2. Introduce concept of contrast as basis for decision-making in their everyday lives, once again by activating and using example from their prior knowledge and experience. We all use compare and contrast every day when we make decisions. It may seem like you don't have choices in your life, but you do. What decisions do you make every day? Have class generate a list of decisions they make in their every day life.

Examples of student's decisions:

- What to wear to school.
- What to eat for breakfast.
- What movie to go see.
- When they do their homework.
- What to watch on TV.
- What kind of music to listen to.
- What present to get a friend on his/her birthday.

About Making Decisions

- Some decisions may be made done quickly without much thought. These kinds of decisions are generally not too important to you.
- Some decisions need to be considered thoughtfully. These are those that are more important to you.
- Often making decisions is not about one point of view being right and the other wrong. It is weighing factors and deciding which are more important to you.
- How do you go about making important decisions when you have a difficult choice? List some of students' ideas on the board.

3. Introduction to compare and contrast tutorial

You will hear and read about how three students go about making decisions about their summer jobs. Notice what they do to help them think about their decisions.

Students do online tutorial – **Help Lee Decide** at:  
[http://www.literacymatters.org/18under/cc\\_activites.htm](http://www.literacymatters.org/18under/cc_activites.htm)