



## **FOLLOW-UP LESSON 3: COMPARE AND CONTRAST TUTORIAL**

### **WHAT SHOULD MARIA DO?**

#### **WRITING A COMPARE AND CONTRAST ESSAY**

##### **Background for teachers:**

Some reasons to have students learn to write compare and contrast essays are:

- To inform about an unfamiliar subject by relating it to another subject more familiar to the reader
- To inform about two unfamiliar subjects by relating them to a familiar general principle or idea that applies to both
- To inform about an unfamiliar general principle or idea by comparing and contrasting two representative examples of it.

##### **Goals:**

- Students will write their own compare and contrast essay.
- Students will practice using signal words in their essay.

##### **Materials:**

*What Should Maria Do?: Handout 3*

*What Should Maria Do?: Handout 4*

##### **Procedure:**

1. Review the information the students have read about cows and dogs in *What Should Maria Do?: Handout 3*.
2. Tell students they will be making an imaginative, “science-fiction” decision. Pose this problem: If you were going to travel to the moon and you could bring only one animal, which would you bring—a dog or a cow?

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3. Help students brainstorm a list of attributes or factors they would need to consider in making this decision by using *What Should Maria Do?: Handout 4*. Some attributes might be size, amount of food eaten, use on Mars, personal company, etc. Reinforce that in a “problem” such as this, there is no one right or wrong answer.
4. After filling in the chart, have students decide which animal they would take with them.
5. Using signal words, have students write a compare and contrast paragraph explaining their decision using the attributes. Ask them which were the most important factors in making their decisions.
6. Have students underline their signal words.