



FOLLOW-UP LESSON 4: COMPARE AND CONTRAST TUTORIAL

WHAT SHOULD MARIA DO?

DIFFERENT COMPARE AND CONTRAST WRITING STRUCTURES

Goals:

- Students will learn about the compare and contrast structures and the whole-to-whole and part-to-part writing formats.
- Students will examine texts written in both formats to understand how they work.
- Students will become more efficient readers and better writers of these formats.

Materials:

Make Your Own Materials at: <http://www.literacymatters.org/teachers/activity.htm>

Background information:

There are two general kinds of compare and contrast structures:

- The whole-to-whole (divided) pattern of comparison (A+B), i.e., the first thing is discussed in its entirety, and then the second thing is discussed. Use this structure when points of comparison or contrast are broad and obvious.
- The part-to-part (alternating) pattern of comparison (A/B + A/B), i.e., elements of the first thing are discussed, then elements of the second. This process is then repeated. Use when many details are involved.

Go to *Make Your Own Materials*, where you will find a number of samples of texts written in both the whole-to-whole and part-to-part formats. You will notice we also have provided you with two kinds of attribute charts, one with the information filled in and one left blank. The latter can be used for student worksheets.

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Suggestions:

- We suggest you begin with the sample **Dogs vs. Cows** as a teaching model of the different structures. This text was used in *Follow-up Lesson 3: What Should Maria Do? - Writing a Compare and Contrast Essay Using Signal Words*. Students will be familiar with the text and will have worked with the information.
- Teach the value of and use for each text structure.
- To reinforce the concept of attributes, use the whole-to-whole samples and follow up with the blank attribute charts.
- For teaching writing, begin by assigning a whole-to-whole compare or contrast paper, since it is the easier format to write in.
- Divide the class into two groups. Assign a compare or contrast topic. Have one group use the whole-to-whole format and the other use the part-to-part format. Read some of each format to the students. Discuss the values of each format.
- Have students write their own part-to-part compare and contrast essay. You can choose a topic for them from current curriculum topics or let them generate their own topics. You may want to brainstorm some topics on the board. Also, have the class generate a list of decisions they make in their everyday life.

Samples of Students' Decisions

- What to wear to school
- What to eat for breakfast
- What movie to see
- When to do homework
- What to watch on TV
- What kind of music to listen to
- What present to buy for a parent's birthday