



Student Tasks:

- Review the expectations of the comparison.
- Move to pairs or small groups if collaboration is beneficial and time allows.
- Compare texts based on the criteria.

Online ThinkCERCA Modules:

- Texts

Compare Writing

Comparing texts is a powerful tool for reading and writing skill development.

Suggested Time: 15 minutes


Rationale/Research Base

Which is better? Why? What are the various strategies for achieving a particular goal? What do they look like. Comparison is a proven way to develop a critical eye and to learn new skills for reading and writing.

Optimal Application Notes:

Provide students with two or more texts and a focus:

Before:

- Let students know the core  comparison of texts is a way of thinking about texts through the eyes of the author's choices and the impact of those choices not just the ideas the texts convey.

During:

- If new to students, introduce the specific focus of the comparison (stronger/more effective versus less effective/weaker; approach 1, approach 2, approach 3, etc.)
- Demonstrate process of comparison.
- Start by delineating the features or components of the text that will be evaluated. Initially, modeling the analysis is helpful.
- Direct students to use or find texts that will be the subjects of the comparison. Have students continue to conduct the comparison.

After:

(Today) Have students compare texts and share their findings.

(Today and Tomorrow) Once students are comfortable with comparisons, challenge them to compare their own samples across time using the same framework for evaluation.

Scaffolds & Supports:

- Model the description with annotations.
- Print the portions of texts to review.
- Provide sentence stems for describing texts.
- Use pairs instead of groups.
- Allow students to practice as a class or in groups, describing texts out loud.

Compare Writing (2)

Directions: Compare texts to analyze two or more texts. Look for the aspects you will compare (claims, evidence, reasoning, audience appeal, organizational approach, imagery, word choice, beginnings, endings, etc.) Evaluate the approaches and collect evidence to capture your reflections on the impact of the choices on the reader.

Aspect to be Compared:_____

| | |
|-------|-------|
| Text: | Text: |
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Reflection: Draw an overall conclusion about the comparison. What have you learned about the techniques employed by the writers. What is your evaluation of the impact of their choices on the reader?

Compare Writing (4)

Directions: Compare texts to analyze two or more texts. Look for the aspects you will compare (claims, evidence, reasoning, audience appeal, organizational approach, imagery, word choice, beginnings, endings, etc.) Evaluate the approaches and collect evidence to capture your reflections on the impact of the choices on the reader.

Aspect to be Compared:_____

| | |
|-------|-------|
| Text: | Text: |
| | |
| | |
| Text: | Text: |
| | |
| | |

Reflection: Draw an overall conclusion about the comparison. What have you learned about the techniques employed by the writers. What is your evaluation of the impact of their choices on the reader?