

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts  
**Unit Title:** Understanding Comparison and Contrast Essays  
**Grade Level:** 9-12  
**Lesson Number:** 1 of 5

**Duration:** 5 days  
**Date:** September 1-5, 2024  
**Teacher:** Ms. Johnson  
**Room:** 101

## Curriculum Standards Alignment

### Content Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.2
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.3

### Skills Standards:

- Critical Thinking
- Analytical Skills

### Cross-Curricular Links:

- History
- Science

## Essential Questions & Big Ideas

### Essential Questions:

- What are comparison and contrast essays?
- Why are comparison and contrast essays important?

### Enduring Understandings:

- Comparison and contrast essays help develop critical thinking and analytical skills.
- Comparison and contrast essays are essential in academic and professional settings.

## Student Context Analysis

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### Class Profile:

- Total Students: 25
- ELL Students: 5
- IEP/504 Plans: 3
- Gifted: 2

### Learning Styles Distribution:

- Visual: 40%
- Auditory: 30%
- Kinesthetic: 30%

## Pre-Lesson Preparation

### Room Setup:

- Arrange desks in a U-shape
- Set up whiteboard and markers

### Technology Needs:

- Computer with internet access
- Projector and screen

### Materials Preparation:

- Handouts with guided notes
- Whiteboard markers

### Safety Considerations:

- Ensure students have a clear path to exit
- Keep materials organized and tidy

## Detailed Lesson Flow

### Day 1: Introduction to Comparison and Contrast Essays

- Introduce the concept of comparison and contrast essays
- Discuss the importance of comparison and contrast essays

### Day 2: Structuring a Comparison and Contrast Essay

- Discuss the structure of a comparison and contrast essay
- Provide examples of introduction, thesis statement, body paragraphs, and conclusion

#### Engagement Strategies:

- Think-pair-share
- Group discussion

### Day 3: Using Real-Life Examples Page 7 of 7

- Discuss the use of real-life examples in comparison and contrast essays
- Provide examples of real-life scenarios that can be used for comparison and contrast

#### Checking for Understanding:

- Formative assessment
- Exit tickets

### Day 4: Writing a Comparison and Contrast Essay

- Have students write a comparison and contrast essay using a real-life example
- Provide guidance on using transitional phrases, organizing the essay, and using evidence

### **Scaffolding Strategies:**

- Graphic organizer
- Writing workshop

### **Day 5: Conclusion and Review**

- Review the key elements of comparison and contrast essays
- Discuss the importance of practice in mastering the skill of writing comparison and contrast essays

## Differentiation & Support Strategies

### For Struggling Learners:

- Provide additional support with graphic organizers
- Offer one-on-one instruction

### For Advanced Learners:

- Provide additional challenges with complex texts
- Encourage independent research

### ELL Support Strategies:

- Provide visual aids and graphic organizers
- Offer bilingual resources

### Social-Emotional Learning Integration:

- Encourage self-reflection and self-assessment
- Model and teach empathy and respect

## Assessment & Feedback Plan

### Formative Assessment Strategies:

- Class discussions
- Exit tickets

### Success Criteria:

- Students can define comparison and contrast essays
- Students can identify the structure of a comparison and contrast essay

### Feedback Methods:

- Verbal feedback
- Written feedback

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## Homework & Extension Activities

### Homework Assignment:

Write a comparison and contrast essay using a real-life example

### Extension Activities:

- Create a multimedia presentation comparing and contrasting two topics
- Write a reflective essay on the challenges and benefits of writing comparison and contrast essays

### Parent/Guardian Connection:

## Teacher Reflection Space

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### Pre-Lesson Reflection:

- What challenges do I anticipate?
- Which students might need extra support?
- What backup plans should I have ready?

### Post-Lesson Reflection:

- What went well?
- What would I change?
- Next steps for instruction?

## What are Comparison and Contrast Essays?

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Comparison and contrast essays are a type of academic writing that aims to explore similarities and differences between two or more subjects.

These essays are crucial in academic and professional settings as they help in decision-making, critical thinking, and analytical skills.

## The Importance of Comparison and Contrast Essays

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Comparison and contrast essays are essential in various aspects of life, including academia, profession, and personal decision-making.

They help individuals develop critical thinking and analytical skills, which are vital in evaluating information, identifying patterns, and making informed decisions.

## Introduction

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The introduction should introduce the subjects and provide background information.

The thesis statement should outline the purpose of the comparison and the main points to be discussed.

## Body Paragraphs

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The body paragraphs should discuss the similarities and differences between the subjects.

Each paragraph should have a clear topic sentence, evidence, and analysis.

## Conclusion

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The conclusion should summarize the main points and reiterate the thesis.

The conclusion should also provide a final thought or call to action.

### Why Use Real-Life Examples?

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Real-life examples make the learning process more engaging and relevant.

Real-life examples provide tangible and relatable subjects for comparison, making it easier for students to understand the concepts.

### How to Use Real-Life Examples

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Choose real-life scenarios that are relevant to the students' lives.

Use visual aids and graphic organizers to help students organize their thoughts and ideas.



## Choose Relevant Topics

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Choose topics that have enough similarities and differences to make for an interesting comparison.

Choose topics that are relevant to the students' lives and interests.

## Use Transitional Phrases

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Use transitional phrases and words to connect ideas and signal the start of a comparison or contrast.

Use transitional phrases and words to provide a clear and logical flow of ideas.

## Organize Your Essay

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Use a point-by-point or block organization method to structure your essay.

Use an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion to provide a clear and logical flow of ideas.