

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

Duration: 90 minutes
Date: March 10, 2023
Teacher: Ms. Johnson
Room: 205

Curriculum Standards Alignment

Content Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of relevant and credible sources.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear structure.

Skills Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-10.1: Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.9-10.5: Demonstrate a range of vocabulary and apply nuances of word meanings to maintain effective style and tone in written and spoken language.

Cross-Curricular Links:

- History: Analyzing primary and secondary sources to compare and contrast historical events.
- Science: Comparing and contrasting different scientific theories and concepts.

Essential Questions & Big Ideas

Essential Questions:

- What are the key components of a comparison and contrast essay?
- How do authors use comparison and contrast to convey meaning and purpose in their writing?

Enduring Understandings:

- Comparison and contrast essays are used to explore the similarities and differences between two or more subjects, ideas, or concepts.
- Effective comparison and contrast essays require a clear and logical structure, effective use of transitions, and clear and concise writing.

Student Context Analysis

Class Profile:

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

Learning Styles Distribution:

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

- Gifted: 2

Pre-Lesson Preparation

Room Setup:

- Arrange desks in a U-shape to facilitate group discussion and collaboration.
- Set up a projector and screen for presentations and multimedia resources.

Technology Needs:

- Computers or laptops with internet access for research and writing.
- Interactive whiteboard for presentations and note-taking.

Materials Preparation:

- Handouts with guided notes and graphic organizers.
- Whiteboard markers and colored pencils for note-taking and illustration.

Safety Considerations:

- Ensure all students have a safe and comfortable working environment.
- Encourage students to ask questions and seek help when needed.

Detailed Lesson Flow

Introduction (10 minutes)

- Introduce the topic of comparison and contrast essays.
- Provide background information and examples.

Guided Practice (20 minutes)

- Provide guided practice, offering feedback and support as students write their own comparison and contrast essays.
- Use visual aids, such as diagrams and charts, to help students visualize the relationships between the subjects.

Engagement Strategies:

- Think-pair-share to encourage peer-to-peer discussion and collaboration.
- Gallery walk to allow students to share and review each other's work.

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Independent Practice (20 minutes)

- Allow students to write their own comparison and contrast essays, using graphic organizers and sample essays as guides.
- Circulate around the room, offering feedback and support as needed.

Peer Review (15 minutes)

- Encourage peer review and feedback, promoting critical thinking and collaboration.
- Provide a rubric for students to use when evaluating each other's writing.

Conclusion (10 minutes)

- Summarize the key components of a comparison and contrast essay.

- Discuss the importance of comparison and contrast essays in academic writing.

Differentiation & Support Strategies

For Struggling Learners:

- Provide additional support and scaffolding, such as graphic organizers and sentence stems.
- Offer one-on-one instruction and feedback.

For Advanced Learners:

- Provide additional challenges and extensions, such as complex texts and open-ended questions.
- Encourage students to create their own graphic organizers and writing guides.

ELL Support Strategies:

- Provide visual aids and graphic organizers to support language development.
- Offer bilingual resources and dictionaries.

Social-Emotional Learning Integration:

- Encourage self-awareness and self-reflection through journaling and self-assessment.
- Promote empathy and understanding through role-playing and group discussions.

Assessment & Feedback Plan

Formative Assessment Strategies:

- Observations and feedback during guided and independent practice.
- Quizzes and tests to evaluate student understanding.

Success Criteria:

- Students will be able to identify and explain the key components of a comparison and contrast essay.
- Students will be able to analyze and evaluate sample essays to understand the application of comparison and contrast techniques.

Feedback Methods:

- Verbal feedback during guided and independent practice.
- Written feedback on student writing samples.

Homework & Extension Activities

Homework Assignment:

Write a comparison and contrast essay on a topic of your choice, using the graphic organizers and sample essays as guides.

Extension Activities:

- Research and create a multimedia presentation on a comparison and contrast topic.
- Write a creative story using comparison and contrast techniques.

Parent/Guardian Connection:

Encourage parents and guardians to ask their child about their learning and provide feedback and support at home.

Teacher Reflection Space

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?

Comparison and contrast essays are a type of academic writing that explores the similarities and differences between two or more subjects, ideas, or concepts.

These essays require students to think critically and analytically, evaluating the relationships between the subjects and presenting their findings in a clear and concise manner.

Key Components of a Comparison and Contrast Essay

Introduction:

Introduces the subjects and provides background information.

Thesis Statement:

Presents the main argument or point of comparison.

Body Paragraphs:

Compare and contrast the subjects, using evidence and examples to support the thesis statement.

Conclusion:

Summarizes the main points and reiterates the thesis statement.

Teaching Tips

Use Visual Aids:

Diagrams, charts, and graphs can help students visualize the relationships between the subjects.

Provide Sample Essays:

Analyze and evaluate sample essays to demonstrate effective comparison and contrast techniques.

Encourage Critical Thinking:

Ask open-ended questions to prompt students to think critically about the subjects and their relationships.

Offer Feedback:

Provide constructive feedback on student writing, highlighting areas of strength and weakness.

Differentiation Strategies

Learning Centers:

Create learning centers that focus on different aspects of comparison and contrast essays, such as introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion.

Graphic Organizers:

Provide graphic organizers to help students visually organize their ideas and structure their essays.

Technology Integration:

Utilize online resources and tools to support student learning, such as interactive diagrams and writing guides.

Peer Review:

Encourage peer review and feedback to promote critical thinking and collaboration.

Formative Assessment Strategies

Observations and Feedback:

Observe students during guided and independent practice, providing feedback and support as needed.

Quizzes and Tests:

Administer quizzes and tests to evaluate student understanding and progress.

Class Discussions:

Engage students in class discussions, evaluating their ability to think critically and analytically.

Peer Assessment:

Encourage students to assess and provide feedback on each other's writing.

Summative Assessment Strategies

Essay Writing:

Assign a comparison and contrast essay, using a rubric to assess student writing.

Presentations:

Have students create and present a multimedia presentation on a comparison and contrast topic.

Projects:

Assign a project that requires students to apply comparison and contrast techniques, such as a research paper or a creative story.

Conclusion

Comparison and contrast essays are a fundamental component of academic writing, enabling students to analyze and evaluate the similarities and differences between two or more subjects, ideas, or concepts.

By recognizing and applying effective strategies for organizing and structuring a comparison and contrast essay, students can develop critical thinking skills and improve their writing abilities.

Reflection

What did I learn?

- I learned about the key components of a comparison and contrast essay.
- I learned about effective strategies for teaching comparison and contrast essays.

What would I change?

- I would provide more opportunities for students to practice and apply comparison and contrast techniques.
- I would incorporate more technology and multimedia resources to support student learning.

