

Identifying Similarities and Differences

from *Classroom Instruction That Works* by Marzano, Pickering, & Pollock

Definitions

Comparing is the process of identifying similarities and differences between or among things or ideas.

Classifying is the process of grouping things that are alike into categories on the basis of their characteristics.

Creating metaphors is the process of identifying a general or basic pattern in a specific topic and then finding another topic that appears to be quite different but that has the same general pattern.

Creating analogies is the process of identifying relationships between pairs of concepts – in other words, identifying relationships between relationships.

Graphic Organizers:

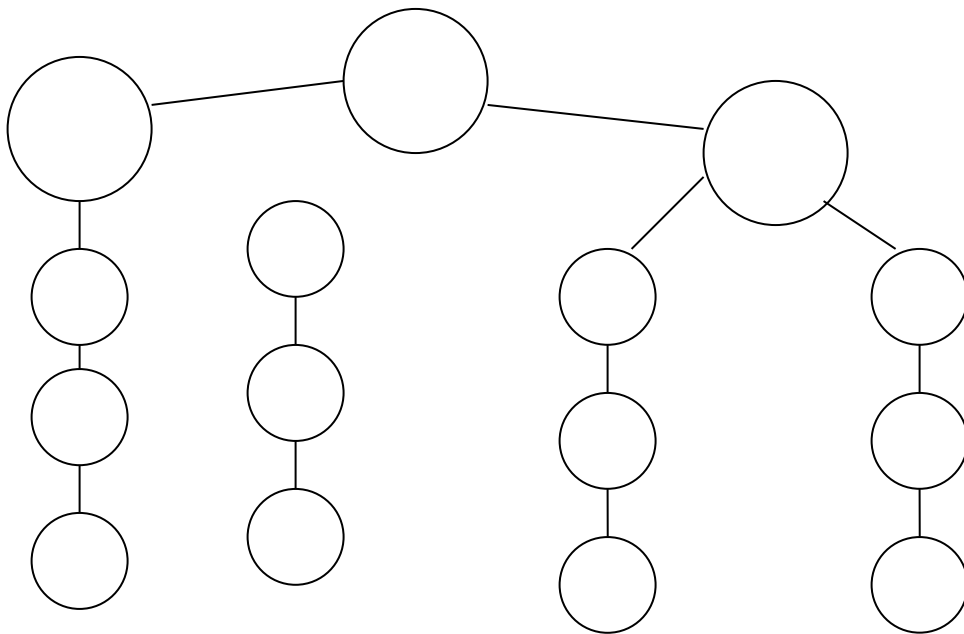
Venn Diagram	When you want students to compare and contrast two or more concepts, characters, and events.	Model for students by selecting two concepts they are familiar with, such as Spiderman and Batman. Draw two large circles or ovals that overlap in the middle. Have students identify the traits that they share, and jot down similarities in the space where the two circles overlap (items might be: they both help people in trouble, they both have superpowers, etc.). Then list differences in the specific circle identified as Superman's qualities (has a Batmobile, is allergic to kryptonite, came from another planet, etc.), and another list in Batman's circle (propels himself on giant webs that shoot from his hands, was an orphan, etc.)	Examine students' Venn diagrams to see that they have correctly categorized attributes according to whether they are specific to one concept or shared by all. Can students construct their own Venn diagrams as an organizational and study tool, and as a writing planning tool?
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Comparison Matrix

Characteristics	Items to be Compared			
	#1	#2	#3	
1.				Similarities
				Differences
2.				Similarities
				Differences

3.				Similarities
				Differences
4.				Similarities
				Differences

Classification:



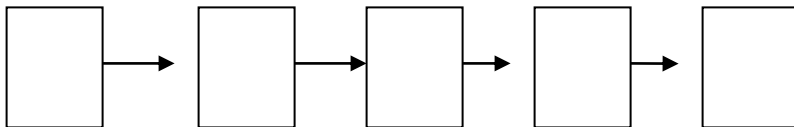
Metaphors: The key to constructing metaphors is to realize that the two items in the metaphor are connected by an abstract or nonliteral relationship. For example, “Love is a rose” is a metaphor. On the surface, love and a rose have no obvious relationship. At an abstract level, however, they do.

Literal: Rose: The blossom is sweet to smell and pleasant to touch, but if you touch the thorns, they can stick you.

Abstract: Something is wonderful and you want to go near it, but if you get too close, you might get hurt.

Literal: Love: Makes you feel happy, but the person you love can end up hurting you.

Graphic Organizer for Metaphors:



Analogies: Robert Frost is to poetry

As

_____ is to _____..

Graphic Organizer for Analogies:

