

## HIGH-YIELD INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

### ***SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES***

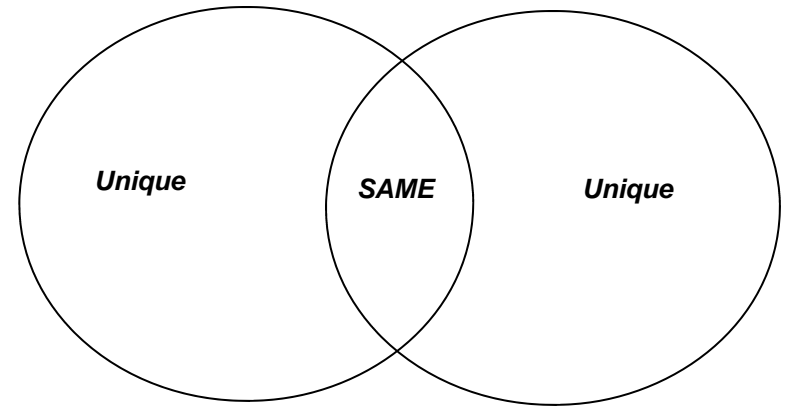
Identifying similarities and differences is a common instructional activity that appears to pay dividends in terms of knowledge development. Apparently the process is basic to human thought.

There are four basic types of tasks that focus on identifying similarities and differences:

- Comparing
- Classifying
- Creating Metaphors  
and Creating Analogies.

*from*  
**The Art and Science of Teaching**  
**Robert J. Marzano**

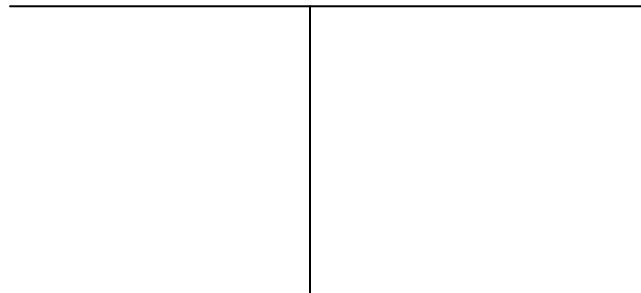
## Venn Diagram



*Identifying similarities and differences*

## T-Chart

Looks like.....Sounds like  
Cause.....Effect  
Compare.....Contrast  
Pro.....Con



*Identifying similarities and differences*

## Cause and Effect Links

A cause is something that makes something else happen. Out of two events, it is **the event that happens first**. To determine the cause, ask the question "**Why** did it happen?"

An effect is what happens **as a result of** the cause. Of two related events, it's the one that happens second or last. To determine the effect, ask the question "**What** happened?"

At times conjunctions (connecting words) are used to link the cause and effect. **Examples of common conjunctions (connecting words) are:**

- |                |                         |                             |              |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| since          | as a result             | because                     | the cause of |
| therefore      | consequently            | due to the fact             | nevertheless |
| the reason for | thus                    | so                          | has led to   |
|                | due to + noun<br>phrase | because of +<br>noun phrase |              |

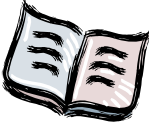


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## Compare and Contrast Text/Character Comparison

The life events of _____	Me, too	Explanation

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## QAR-Question/Answer Relationship

“Right there” (in the text)	“Think and Search” (text + my thinking)	“In my head” (my thinking only)
		

Students answer teacher-prepared questions from text and determine the category of each question. Partners/class discuss categories.

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## Sketch to Stretch

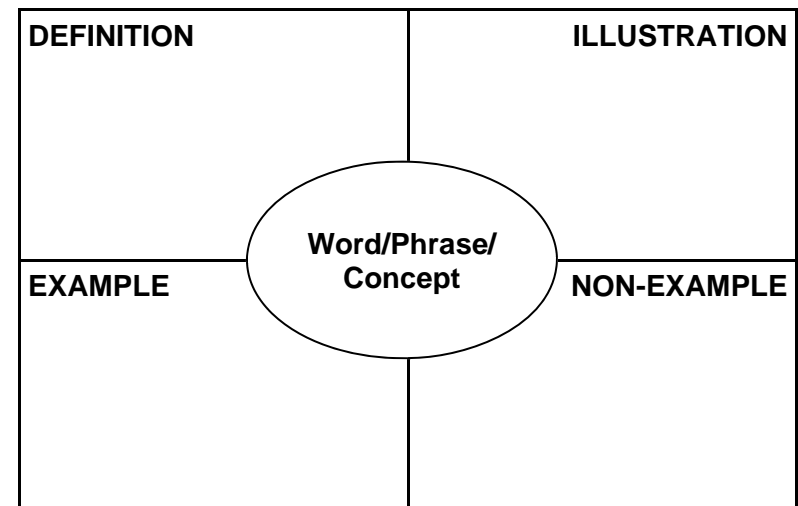
1. Students listen as a story, article or poem is read to them.
2. Students draw a picture that expresses:
  - how the story, article or poem makes them feel
  - what they think story, article or poem story means
  - what they think the author looks like
  - anything that comes to mind during the reading
3. Students explain their drawing to a partner/small group



The class discusses the similarities/differences in their pictures.

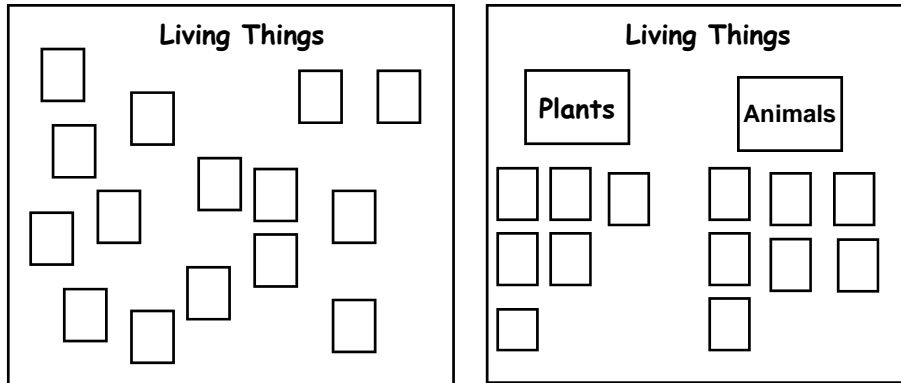
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## Frayer Model



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## Affinity Diagram



The teacher posts a question on chart paper.  
Students record responses to each of the questions on single Post-it® notes.  
When all responses have been collected,  
students sort them into like categories and discuss.

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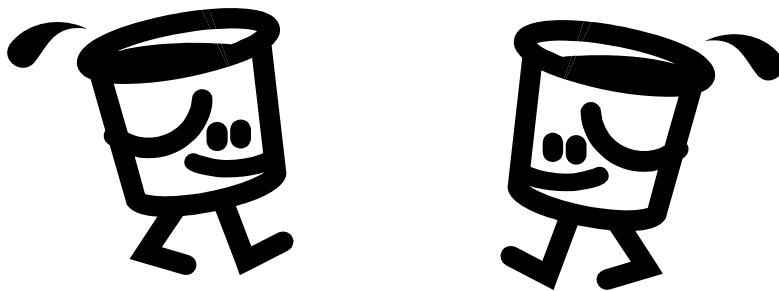
## Comparison Matrix

	Name 1	Name 2
Attribute 1		
Attribute 2		
Attribute 3		

Used to show similarities and differences between two things (people, places, events, ideas, etc.).  
Key frame questions: What things are being compared?  
How are they similar? How are they different?

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## Classifying



\_\_\_ate family

\_\_\_at family

Sort the word cards (or pictures)  
into the correct bucket.

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## Comparing Frame

**FRACTIONS** and **DECIMALS** are similar because they both

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**FRACTIONS** and **DECIMALS** are different because

fractions \_\_\_\_\_, but decimals \_\_\_\_\_.  
fractions \_\_\_\_\_, but decimals \_\_\_\_\_.  
fractions \_\_\_\_\_, but decimals \_\_\_\_\_.

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## Classifying Organizer

### Categories

Items				

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## Comparison Matrix

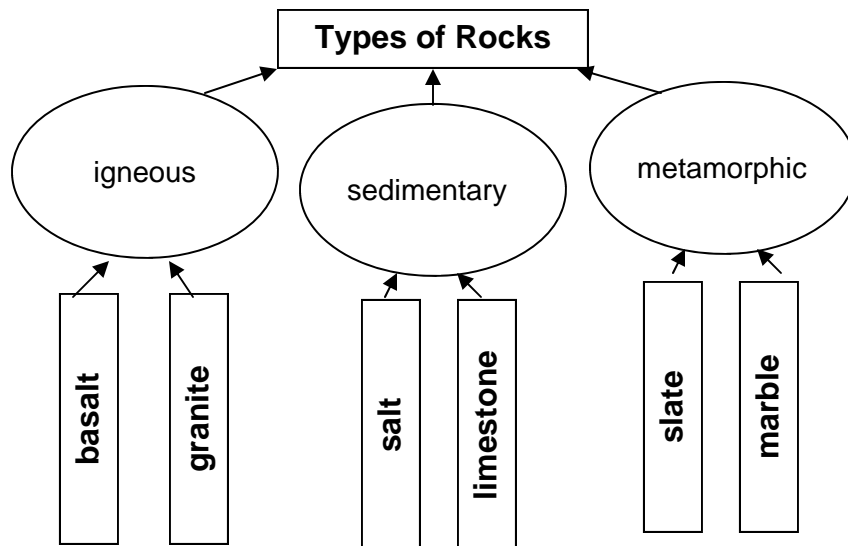
	Item 1	Item 2	Item 3	
Characteristic 1				Similarity Difference
Characteristic 2				Similarity Difference
Characteristic 3				Similarity Difference
Characteristic 4				Similarity Difference

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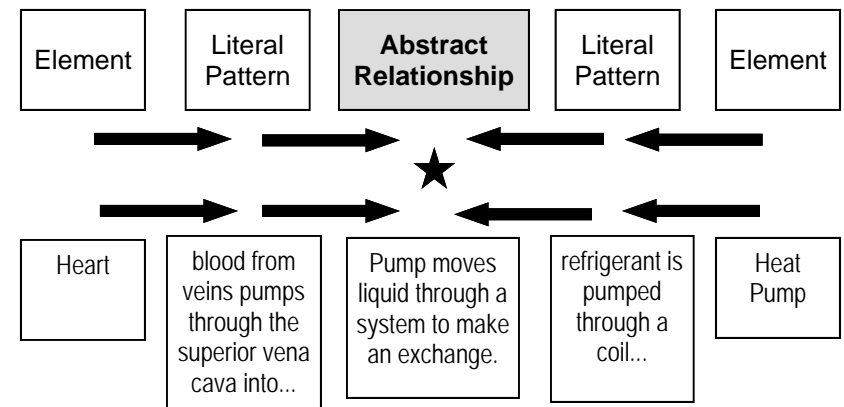
## Classifying Organizer



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## Metaphors

The two items in a metaphor are connected by an abstract or non-literal relationship.



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## Creating Analogies

Analogies help us see how seemingly dissimilar things are similar, increasing our understanding of new information.

**Example:** core is to earth as nucleus is to atom.

thermometer      *...is to...*      temperature

**as** Both measure things

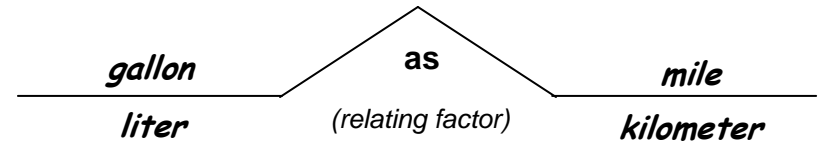
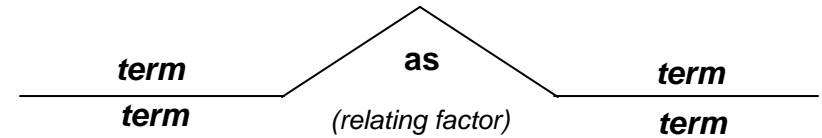
odometer      *...is to...*      speed

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## Using Metaphors

A metaphor is a figurative comparison between two rather unlikely things, resulting in an image in the mind's eye.

This mental image aids the reader in understanding the comparison.

Item	Relationship (another way to say it)	Item

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A metaphor is a figurative comparison between two rather unlikely things, resulting in an image in the mind's eye. This mental image aids the reader, usually, in understanding the comparison.

Literal Pattern (Information Superhighway)	Abstract Relationship (Internet)

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