

# Text Structures

Explanatory Writing - Compare/Contrast



# Learning Target/Success Criteria

Learning Target: I can write a compare/contrast paragraph.

Success Criteria: I can read a mentor text. I can conduct research. I can write a compare/contrast paragraph using my research.

# Essential Question

What are the characteristics of a compare/contrast paragraph?

# Compare/Contrast

What do “compare” and “contrast” mean?

In this type of essay, you often use “point-by-point” organization, which means you discuss one point about both subjects before you move on--less often, you use “block” organization with all the details about one item in one section.

Be careful to keep a balance of details about each topic.

Compare and contrast writing should not include your opinion!

# Balancing Compare/Contrast

Read the following paragraph and discuss how it is or is not balanced:

Jellyfish and octopi have similar body structures, but they also have many differences. Both have a large head or dome with tentacles around a central mouth. Even so, a jellyfish does not have a true brain, whereas an octopus has a large brain. Octopi have big, sensitive eyes, but jellyfish have no eyes. Instead, their head is light-sensitive, and that helps to guide them through the water. Each creature uses tentacles to bring food to its mouth. Also, octopi and jellyfish are similar because they lack bones.

# Compare/Contrast Mentor Text

“What’s the Buzz?” on p.163  
in the Write Source book

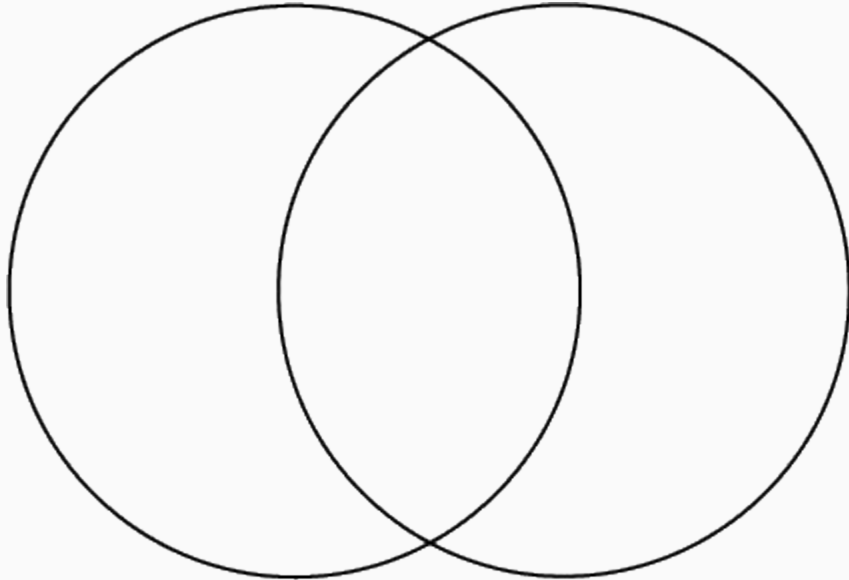


honeybee



yellow jacket

# Planning a Compare/Contrast Text



## Gathering Grid

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Physical Characteristics</i>	
	<i>WHITE SHARKS</i>	<i>DOLPHINS</i>
<i>What size is it?</i>	<i>— many grow up to 16 feet long</i>	<i>— around 8 feet long</i>
<i>What shape is it?</i>	<i>— long body, pectoral fins, dorsal fin, vertical tail</i>	<i>— long body, pectoral fins, dorsal fins, horizontal tail</i>
<i>What covers it?</i>	<i>— rough skin made up of millions of sharp scales</i>	<i>— rubbery skin over a layer of blubber</i>
<i>What color is it?</i>	<i>— light gray back and white belly</i>	<i>— dark gray back and white belly</i>
<i>What special features does it have?</i>	<i>— gills for breathing water, as other fish do</i>	<i>— blowhole for breathing air, as other mammals do</i>

# Topic Sentences





# Learning Target/Success Criteria

Learning Target: I can analyze information to determine my idea and write my topic sentence.

Success Criteria: I can include a topic sentence in my compare/contrast paragraph.

# Essential Question

What is the purpose of a topic sentence?

# Why do we use topic sentences?

“Hooks/Attention Grabbers” are **sometimes** used in explanatory writing, but should **always** be followed by a topic sentence.

The topic sentence goes at the beginning of **EVERY** paragraph.

The topic sentence helps the reader know what to expect!

# Summary Statements

This highlights or reviews your main points for what you will say in the rest of the text (you may end up sounding repetitive if you aren't careful).

“Hummingbirds live in a variety of locations, eat certain foods, and have some unique characteristics.”

# Your Turn!

**Prompt:** Compare and contrast June and Day's lives.

You must have:

Two paragraphs

A summary statement topic sentence for each paragraph

3-5 pieces of evidence from the text (quotes with page numbers)