Comparison Analysis

Subject Area: All subjects

Grade Level: 6 – 12

Lesson Objective:
Students will use Inspiration® Maps™ to help them analyze the similarities and differences between any two things.

Common Core State Standards1:
  College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading:
    Standard 7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
  College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing:
    Standard 1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
    Standard 6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

Overview:
Making comparisons is a powerful exercise to get students of all ages thinking critically. In order to effectively compare two things, students must first research and understand each of them. Then they must think critically about the similarities and differences. Use the Thinking - Compare and Contrast template (Inspiration Maps Starter Screen>Templates> Thinking - Compare & Contrast) to help make the process easier for students. Completed diagrams can then be used as visual aids in class presentations, or as good starting points for effective essays as discussed in the Adaptations / Extensions section at the end of this lesson.
Preparation:
- Access to library resources and/or the Internet would also be helpful for student research.

Lesson:
1. Open the Thinking – Compare & Contrast template and demonstrate for students how it can be used to compare any two things. Engage students by asking them to suggest two things or people that they have learned about in your class that they could compare. Enter one of them as "A" and the other as "B." As a class, brainstorm similarities and differences and add those ideas to the appropriate parts of the diagram.

2. Explain that they will be adding visual Images, as well as text, to their diagrams. Adding Images will help them and their readers to better understand and remember the content.
   Optional: Students may use Images from their Camera Roll, upload Images from the Internet, or take photos (if iPad has a camera) and insert directly into diagram.

3. Be sure to point out how additional information can be added in Notes. Demonstrate how notes that have been added to symbols can be shown by clicking the Note symbol in the upper-left corner of the symbol with the note. All notes in a diagram can be shown quickly at the same time in Outline View.

4. Students may be organized into groups of 2-4 to complete the project. Groups will then choose two topics to compare, such as two revolutions in history. You may want to provide a list of acceptable topics, or you may have groups choose topics and then submit their proposals for review.
5. Suggest that one or two group members focus on one topic, and one or two focus on the other. Then groups can share what they learn with each other to determine similarities and differences.

6. Students may begin the process by using the RapidFire® tool to quickly record what they know about the topic.

7. Encourage students to add Hyperlinks to their sources of information, including any multimedia files available on the Internet.

8. Tell students they can go to Outline View to finish organizing their information. Demonstrate how items can be reorganized within the outline.

9. Have students print and/or share documents. Tap to print, mail or send work to a different App, Dropbox or iTunes.

**Adaptations / Extensions:**

- Complete diagrams can also be used as visual aids in Outline View. Subtopics can be hidden or viewed using the Subtopic Quick Controls to allow focused attention on the topics being discussed.

- This exercise can be assigned as an individual project. Students can use Outline View to organize their information as an essay, then sent to a different App to finish writing in a word processing app.

© Copyright 2011. National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and Council of Chief State School Officers. All rights reserved. Learn more online at <http://www.corestandards.org>.