

Kindergarten ▶

Unit Five

PRE-INSTRUCTION CHECKLIST

ACQUAINTANCE & ANALYSIS	WRITING ON DEMAND
<input type="checkbox"/> Expository: Comparison	<input type="checkbox"/> ongoing, all disciplines

PATTERN STATEMENT

Finding ways things are alike and different helps us see more.

NOTES

The central idea for the unit is that comparing and contrasting experiences enables us to see each experience more clearly, to understand it more deeply. (The pattern statement attempts to convey this idea in language appropriate for kindergarten students.) In guiding the writing of the collaborative paragraph, help students focus on similarities and differences that truly reveal something interesting or enlightening about one or both experiences. Help them phrase their sentences to highlight what the comparison reveals.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The pattern, *Finding ways things are alike and different helps us see more*, can be illustrated by displaying a set of “spot the difference” photos or sketches. (Complex examples can be found at <http://www.spotthedifference.com>.) If possible, project or display the photos or sketches large enough for the class to see. Begin by having the students identify details that are the same in both. Then have the students notice details that are different. Guide their observation, if necessary (EX-ex). Then engage students in discussing the following (EX-co):

- What are the most interesting things that are the same? Which ones would we tell other people about?
- What are the most interesting things that are different? Which ones would we tell other people about?
- How was looking for things that were alike/unalike different from just looking at the pictures?

Using additional questioning, the teacher can then guide students to recognize the pattern: *Finding ways things are alike and different helps us see more* (EX-el). The EXperience strand can conclude with having students identify other things that could be compared and what they would notice when comparing those things. If not mentioned, the teacher can suggest experiences (i.e., “Things that we get to do or that happen to us.”) (EX-ap).



GENRE

EXPOSITORY: Comparison			
Definition		Objective	
Describes similarities and differences between two topics to clarify an understanding of each.		With teacher prompting and support, students write, as a class with the teacher taking dictation, a cohesive (unified and complete) and coherent (clear and logical) paragraph comparing and contrasting two recent experiences (e.g., a field trip to a post office and a field trip to a fire station).	
Rubric			
EXEMPLARY	PROFICIENT	ADEQUATE	NOT YET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Writing presents a cohesive and coherent paragraph comparing two recent experiences. ▶ Writing includes explanations of why the similarities and differences are important. The paragraph flows without ever seeming like a list. ▶ All included details are important and helpful to the reader. ▶ Additional revisions may minimally improve the paragraph. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Writing presents a cohesive and coherent paragraph comparing two recent experiences. ▶ Writing includes some explanations of why the similarities and differences are important. These help the writing flow and read less like a list. ▶ Most details that are included are important and helpful to the reader. ▶ Additional development or revision could strengthen the paragraph by improving its flow and/or by editing the paragraph's unnecessary, unimportant details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Writing presents a cohesive and coherent paragraph comparing two recent experiences. ▶ While presented in a paragraph, the writing reads much like a list. Few or no sentences explain why the similarities or differences are important, <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <p>Writing features too many details. It reads as if the writer included details without considering which ones were important or would help the reader understand the experiences being compared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Additional development or revision could improve the paragraph's content (why the similarities/differences matter) or structure (flow, less like a list). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Writing fails to present a cohesive and coherent paragraph comparing two recent experiences. ▶ Additional development or revision could significantly improve the paragraph's content and/or structure.