

Writing Frames Lesson Matching Activity

Introduction: *Setting the Stage:* The teacher shows the students a picture of Bill Clinton and another of Barack Obama. The teacher asks the students to name things that are the same about both men. The teacher then asks the students to name things that are different about both men. After a brief discussion of the similarities and differences, the teacher tells students that today they will be practicing finding similarities and differences and writing about them in a paragraph.

Introduction: *What You are Learning and Why:* The teacher explains that these paragraphs are called compare-contrast paragraphs because they show what is the same (compare), and what is different (contrast) about two things or people. The teacher explains that they will learn the parts of a compare-contrast paragraph AND how to write one using what is called a writing frame and a Venn diagram. The teacher shows students examples of completed Venn diagrams and writing frames. The teacher explains that learning how to find similarities and differences is an important skill necessary to be good readers because it will help them understand the author's way of thinking. The teacher explains that they will definitely need to write compare-contrast paragraphs in the high school program and on tests like the CAHSEE and GED.

Modeling: The teacher asks the students to watch, listen, and pay close attention as he shows them how he first completes a Venn diagram and then a writing frame about the similarities and differences of two important people in his life: his best friends Alfredo and Herlinda. The teacher uses a think-aloud to model his thought process – the questions he asks himself and the responses and any other comments he makes to himself. In the process, the teacher fills out the Venn diagram and completes the writing frame. When the frame is complete, the teacher checks the students' understanding of what he just did.

Guided Practice 1: The teacher tells the class that together they are going to complete a new Venn diagram and writing frame. The teacher and students have a class discussion about the similarities and differences of two popular sports: soccer and basketball. Students are asked to help the teacher and offer similarities and differences between the two while teacher writes their answers in the Venn diagram. When the Venn diagram is completed, the teacher begins completing the writing frame with the help of the students. Together, teacher and students complete the frame.

Guided Practice 2: The teacher tells students to work in pairs to complete a new Venn diagram and writing frame. Students have a discussion as a class and/or in pairs about the similarities and differences of two fast-food restaurants: Subway and McDonald's. While pairs are filling out the graphic organizer and completing the writing frame, the teacher walks around, giving feedback as necessary. When completed, students share their writing frames.

Independent Practice: The teacher asks students to individually complete a new Venn diagram and writing frame. Individually, students come up with similarities and differences of two teachers: current teacher and previous teacher. While students are filling out the Venn diagram and completing the writing frame individually, the teacher walks around, giving feedback as necessary. When completed, students share their frames.