

LESSON 5: DRAFTING A COMPARISON PARAGRAPH

essential question

How can writers use comparisons from T-chart to draft comparison paragraphs?

Materials

"Ducks" and "Platypuses" passages
Football and Rugby passages
T-Chart and Keywords anchor chart and printable

Mini Lesson

"Today we are going to use our T-chart and look at the comparison column to help us write a paragraph explaining the similarities of our two passages titled 'Ducks' and 'Platypuses'."

"When we are comparing two passages in writing, it's important to use keywords or signal words to help our readers understand that we are comparing the two topics. Let's take a look at some of the words or phrases we can use to compare two topics."

Pass out the student anchor chart. Have students help you create a list of keywords to use when writing a comparison paragraph. Students can record them on their own anchor charts with you.

"Now that we have our keywords, we can begin writing our comparison paragraph. We will write the introduction paragraph later. Our first sentence in our comparison paragraph should let the readers know what two topics or passages we are comparing. Help me draft a sentence that tells my readers that I'm going to compare ducks and platypuses."

"Our next sentences will inform the readers of the similarities of the two passages. Let's use my T-chart and look at the similarities column. Make sure that you are writing complex sentences in your paragraph, not the simple sentences we used in the T-chart. Be sure that you are looking back into the text to expand your sentences with details. Using our comparison keywords, we are going to form the rest of our sentences."

Have students help you draft the comparison paragraph about ducks and platypuses.

WORK TIME

Have students use their T-chart for "Football" and "Rugby" to write comparison paragraphs. Remind them to start their comparison paragraphs by telling their readers what two topics they are comparing.

CLOSING

"With your partners share the first sentence of your comparison paragraph."

INCLUDES 10 DAYS OF LESSON PLANS!

Ducks

Have you ever watched ducks swimming in super cold water and wondered how their feet didn't turn to ice cubes? Ducks don't have nerves or blood vessels in their feet. This means that they don't feel the cold or freezing temperatures when swimming in icy waters. I bet you didn't realize that there are some very interesting things you may not know about ducks.

Many people enjoy feeding ducks bread when they visit ponds or lakes. However, did you know that bread is actually bad for ducks? It's kind of like junk food for them. It won't help them grow because it isn't nutritious. What do ducks eat instead? Ducks are omnivores. This means that they eat plants and insects. They feast on grass, weeds, aquatic plants, slugs, snails, tadpoles, and worms.

Ducks have a number of ways in which they have adapted to their environment. Their webbed feet help them move quickly through water when swimming. However, they're slow on land because the webbing makes them wobble. Ducks also have glands that produce oil. This oil covers their feathers, making them waterproof to keep them dry and warm. Their uniquely shaped bills allow them to grab and catch their food. They also have little teeth-like filters inside their bills to help them keep bugs and tiny insects in, and strain out the water.

While ducks live on land and in the water, they need water to survive. Ducks roam around on moist land to find bugs and eat grass. They also build nests to lay their eggs and keep them warm until they hatch. Ducks also need water. When digging through dirt as they look for food, they get mud in their nostrils. It's important that they have water to dunk their heads under so that they are able to keep their nostrils clean. They also use the water to bathe in and keep their bodies free of parasites.

If you live in a place that gets pretty cold and the lakes and ponds freeze over, ducks will usually fly south for the winter. If you live somewhere that is on the warmer side year

INCLUDES 3 SETS OF PAIRED PASSAGES
FOR A TOTAL OF 6 PASSAGES

interesting facts to learn about ducks.

KEY WORDS TO USE WHEN **COMPARING**

USING **KEYWORDS** WHEN COMPARING TOPICS
HELPS THE READER BETTER UNDERSTAND YOUR
COMPARISONS.

KEYWORDS USED FOR COMPARING

NOT SO WIMPY TEACHER: LESSON 5

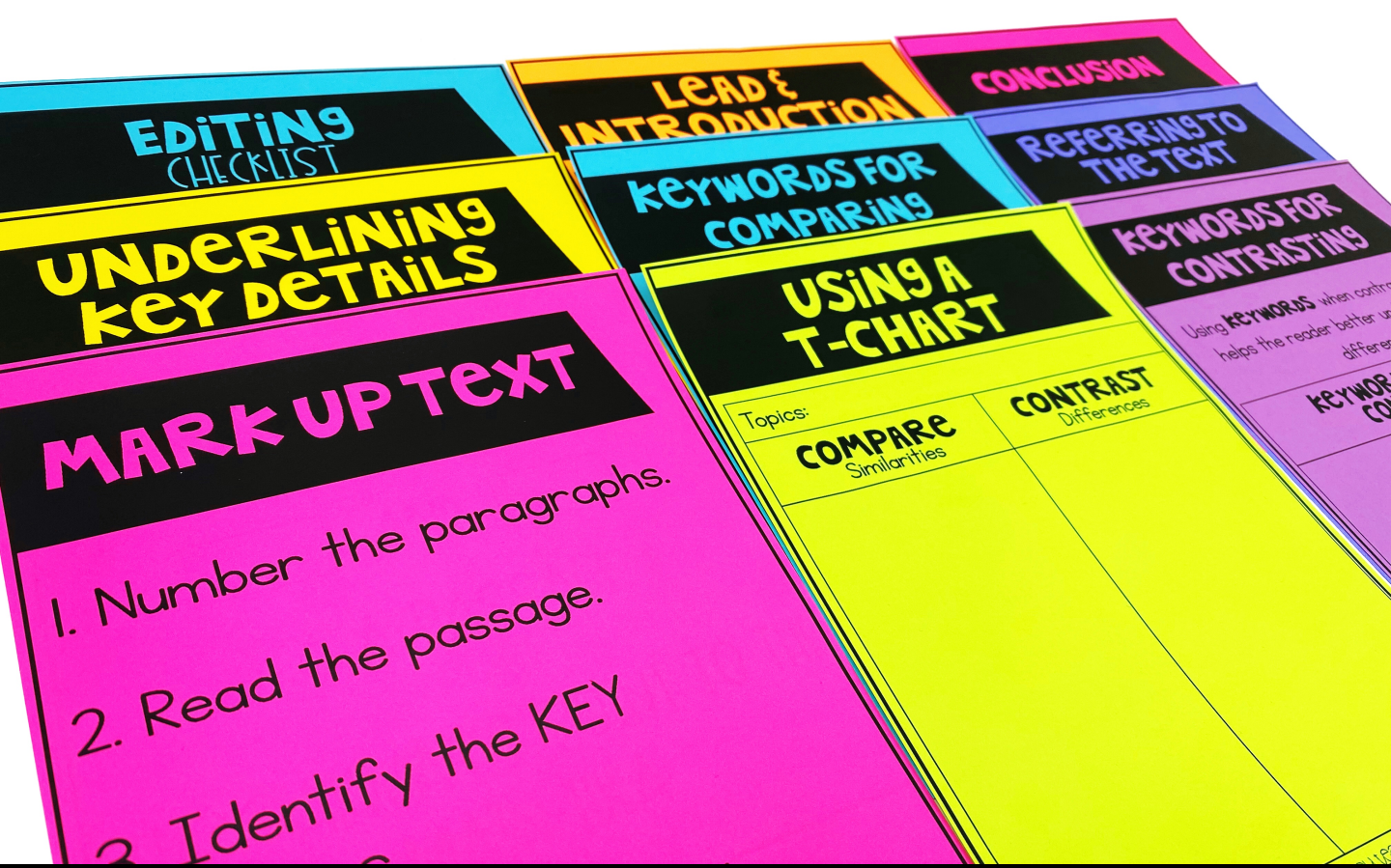
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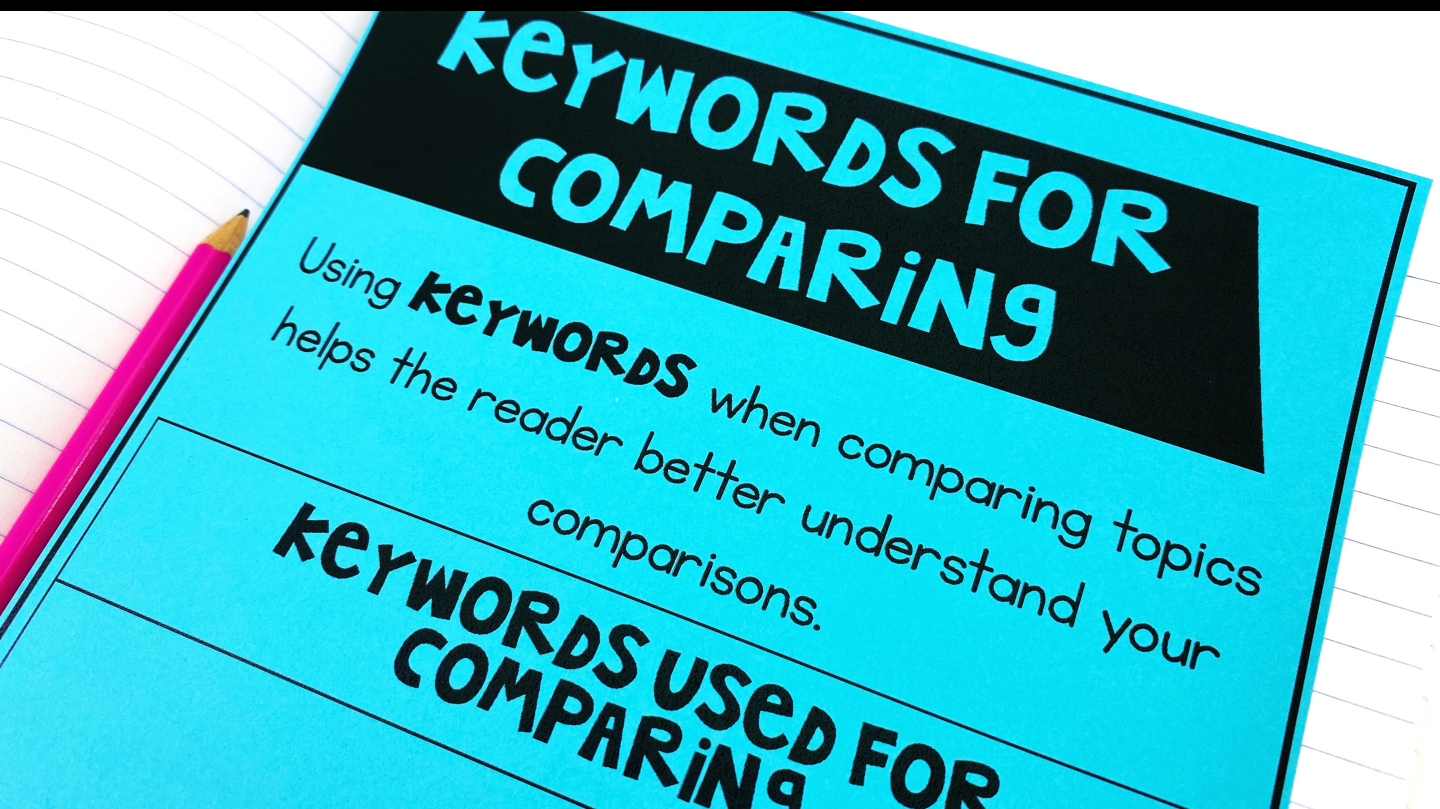
KEYWORDS USED FOR COMPARING

both	also	too	the same as
like	as well	similar	in common
same	alike	in the same way	

INCLUDES 12 BLANK AND FILLED IN
ANCHOR CHARTS OR POSTERS.



INCLUDES 9 ANCHOR CHARTS AND PRINTABLES FOR STUDENTS.



COMPARE AND CONTRAST WRITING RUBRIC

Student Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: /18

	2	1	0
lead	The essay includes a lead that is interesting and grabs readers.	The writer attempted to write a lead.	The essay does not include a lead.
paragraphs	The text is divided into paragraphs to show changes in the topic.	Divided the text into paragraphs, but some errors were made involving when to start a new paragraph.	The text does not include paragraphs.
using the text	The essay sufficiently uses evidence from the original text to support the opinion.	The essay includes very little evidence from the original text to support the opinion.	The essay does not include any evidence from the original text to support the opinion.
compare	The essay points to specific evidence from the text that shows multiple comparisons between the topics	The essay includes evidence from the text that shows one comparison.	The essay points to no evidence from the text and shows no evidence of comparison.
contrast	The essay points to specific evidence from the text that shows multiple contrasts between the topics.	The essay points to evidence from the text that shows one contrasting detail.	The essay points to no evidence from the text and shows no evidence of contrast.
keywords	The essay uses a variety of comparing and contrasting keywords to help the essay flow	The essay uses limited comparing and contrasting keywords.	There are no comparing and contrasting keywords present in the essay.

INCLUDES SIMPLE AND STUDENT FRIENDLY RUBRICS.

	appropriate errors.	that should have been edited.	should have been edited.
punctuation	The essay included correct punctuation.	The essay has some punctuation errors.	The essay has many punctuation errors.