

Area/Skill - LA, Writing	Cognitive Skill Level - Synthesis/Evaluation	Correlation to Framework - 01.06	Lesson Number - 41
<p>Activity Title - Dogs vs. Cats: Pet Ownership Essay</p> <p>Goal/Objective</p> <p>To help students use compare and contrast as an effective organizational tool.</p> <p>Lesson Outline Introduction</p> <p>While there are four general patterns of organization, they are not all appropriate for the same subject material. Compare and contrast is an effective writing pattern when used to identify similarities and differences or pros and cons of something.</p> <p>Activity</p> <p>Have students write a compare and contrast essay using the results from Pet Poll to answer the following essay topic: “Nearly half of households with a pet also have another type of pet.” (USA Today - 06-20-01) Do you agree or disagree with this statement. Defend your position using data from the handout and personal examples.</p> <p>You may wish to conduct your own poll in the classroom, rather than using the information on the handout.</p> <p>Debriefing/Evaluation Activity</p> <p>Have selected students read their essays to the class. Using two columns on the chalkboard, list similarities and differences as they read. Discuss and compare the chalkboard lists. Ask the class to volunteer other similarities or differences to add to the list. Briefly review the four patterns form organizing material and discuss the effectiveness of this writing assignment.</p>			<p>Materials/Texts/Realia/Handouts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout - Pet Poll • Paper and pencils • Dictionaries • Chart paper or Board • Markers
<p>Real-Life Connection</p> <p>Pair students randomly and have them compare and contrast their lives five years ago to their lives today. Have the students write down the differences and similarities with factors such as age, friends, activities, jobs, goals and dreams, and family.</p>			<p>Extension Activity</p> <p>Ask students to consider the similarities and differences in their lives today versus their lives five years ago. Have them write an essay in compare/contrast format which addresses their life today with predictions on what their lives will be like five years from now.</p> <p>ESE/ESOL Accommodations</p> <p>Pair students with a peer mentor from the class.</p> <p>Have students list results from the Pet Poll rather than write an essay.</p> <p>Have students use a graphic organizer to write their essay.</p> <p>Provide dictionaries.</p>

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Introduction			
<p><i>Say:</i> Compare and contrast is an effective writing pattern when used to show the similarities and differences or pros and cons of someone or something. <i>Ask:</i> How many of you have a pet? More than one? What type of pet do you have? Discuss briefly that often people who have a pet have more than one pet. A recent graphic in USA Today (06/20/01) showed that nearly half of households with a pet also have another type of pet. The table showed that the types of pets that dog owners also have included: cat, fish, birds, small animals, and reptiles.</p>			
Main Activity			
<p>Provide the students with the handout Pet Poll. Instead of using the handout, you may wish to conduct a personal poll of pet ownership within the class prior to conducting the main activity.</p> <p><i>Say:</i> Charts, tables, and graphs are one way to organize and report data, but sometimes using graphics is not the most effective way to convey information. Graphics do not provide details or opinions. They do what they are supposed to do - organize and report data. Another way to organize and report information is through the use of a compare and contrast paper. Today, you will be writing an essay on the following topic: “Nearly half of households with a pet also have another type of pet.” (USA Today - 06/20/01) Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Defend your position using data from the handout and personal examples.</p> <p>Have students write a compare/contrast essay.</p>			
Debriefing/Evaluation Activity			
<p>After students have completed their essays, have a few volunteers share their essays with the class. Using two columns on the board, list similarities and differences as they read their essays. Discuss and compare the chalkboard lists.</p> <p><i>Ask:</i> How effective would our results be with just a simple listing format? Cause and effect? Time order? Finish the activity by briefly reviewing the four different organization patterns.</p> <p>As a follow-up activity, have students brainstorm in class how their lives today differ from their lives five years ago. Have them consider such things as age, friends, activities, jobs, goals and dreams, and family. Have the students write a compare/contrast essay which address the similarities and differences in their lives today and their lives five years from now.</p> <p><i>Ask:</i> Was analyzing the past helpful in predicting the future? Why or why not?</p>			

**GED 2002 Teachers' Handbook of Lesson Plans
Language Arts, Writing Lesson 41 Handout**

Pet Poll

Dog owners love cats, too!

Nearly half of households with a pet also have another type of pet. Other types of pets that dog owners also have include:

Cat	42%
Fish	20%
Bird	11%
Small Animal*	9%
Reptile	7%

*Small animals include: rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, ferrets, mice, rats, gerbils, chinchillas, hermit crabs, potbellied pigs, hedgehogs, etc.

Adapted from USA Today 06/20/01