At a Glance

- Comparing/contrasting historical figures, characters in a story, time periods, etc.
- Comparing/contrasting countries, regions, cities, etc.
- Analyzing two trends, systems, laws, etc.

Differentiated Instruction: Lesson 2

For regular or advanced students, use the graphic organizer with an example pair of topics. For struggling students, use the graphic organizer for a group discussion on the topics they will actually write about.

Optional Graphic Organizer

You can use a similar graphic organizer to compare/contrast more than two topics.

Venn Diagram

LESSON 1 SUPPORT FOR READING

Step-by-Step Strategy

1. Choose two topics that have sufficient similarities and/or differences for students to discuss.
2. Ask students to read the material about the two topics and take notes on both of them.
3. After the students have finished reading, label the graphic organizer with the two topics and show it to the class.
4. Conduct a group brainstorming session in which students identify and you list the details about each topic. Make sure students identify which details are similar and which details are different as you place them in the appropriate parts of the diagram.
5. At the end of the group discussion, ask students to write a one or two-sentence summary of the differences and/or similarities between the two topics.

LESSON 2 SUPPORT FOR WRITING

Step-by-Step Strategy

1. Give students an assignment to write a paper comparing/contrasting two people, places, concepts, etc.
2. Use the graphic organizer to model comparison/contrast with the pair of topics you have assigned or with a different example.
3. Conduct a group brainstorming session in which students identify and you list the details about each topic in the pair. Make sure students identify which details are similarities and which details are differences as you place them in the appropriate parts of the diagram.
4. Have students identify possible thesis or main idea statements.
5. Give them the following format for their paper.
   - Introduce the thesis or main idea.
   - Compare and/or contrast the topics in at least three ways.
   - Summarize the similarities and differences.