



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC



Module 2

HOW Responses: Similarities, Differences, and Relationships

Grade 5 • Cluster 5

Medium Stamina

Tackling TEKS • Reading & Writing

5.11(B)(ii) • 5.12(B)(i) • 5.12(B)(ii) • 5.12(B)(iii)

★ Meet Our Week

Week 2 · Medium Stamina · Cluster 5 (ECR Paired Passages)

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- Listen to a complete thought before identifying the relationship.
- Speak my comparison before I write it.
- Use evidence from both passages around one shared idea.
- Revise for meaning, organization, coherence, and clarity before I edit conventions.
- Use evidence from my own work to name a strength and choose a measurable next step.

I Can...

- Explain a true relationship across two passages instead of writing two separate summaries.
- Use accurate evidence from both passages to develop one central comparison.
- Use transitions to signal similarity, difference, cause and effect, or a shared pattern.
- Explain why an important difference changes the meaning of a comparison.

★ Read Both Passages

Day 1 · Gather

★ Daily Deck

A Difficult Compromise

Nonfiction

A nonfiction passage about representation, slavery, political power, and the Three-Fifths Compromise.

A Visit to the Workshop

Historical fiction

Historical fiction about Zaylen observing Thomas Edison and his workers test electric-light materials.

Students read the clean copies first. They then use the TRACKS-highlighted copies to label Time, Reactions, Actions, Character, Concept, Creature, Key Knowledge, and Scenery / Setting.

Passage 9: “A Difficult Compromise” · Passage 10: “A Visit to the Workshop”

How can a writer explain similarities and differences across paired passages without turning the response into two separate summaries?

Explain how the two passages develop a similar idea about problem solving while showing different kinds of challenges and outcomes.

HABIT: Relationship first, paired evidence next, significance last.



Dot the Tricky Words

Day 1 · Gather

★ Daily Deck

Passage 9: A Difficult Compromise. Passage 10: A Visit to the Workshop.
Track problem or conflict, action or decision, outcome, and what remains.

HABIT: Relationship first; paired evidence next; significance last.



S

Statement of Global Purpose

People often respond to hard problems by continuing to work even when the path forward is uncertain.

E

Evidentiary Reference

“A Difficult Compromise” presents a political conflict over representation, while “A Visit to the Workshop” presents a technical challenge involving practical electric light.

T

Thesis (Central Idea)

The passages develop a similar pattern of persistence, but the kinds of challenges, choices, and consequences are very different.

Use a SET introduction: Statement of Global Purpose, Evidentiary Reference to both passages, Thesis (central idea).

★ Full Color-Coding

Day 1 · Reveal (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Similarity, Difference, or Relationship?

HOW: similarity Name the shared idea and use evidence from both passages.

HOW: difference Use however, while, unlike, in contrast, or whereas.

HOW: relationship Explain what the paired details show together and why it matters.

Watch Me!

Full Color-Coding: Point out the thesis (central idea), then color-code every sentence by job:

Green for the relationship, yellow for paired evidence, red for explanation, and blue for significant inference.

Every sentence has a job and a color.

★ Compare and Climb

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

★ Daily Deck

Guide Routine

How to Play

- 1 Read one source-labeled Passage 9 card.
Success Check: Name Passage 9.
- 2 Read one source-labeled Passage 10 card.
Success Check: Name Passage 10.
- 3 Sort the pair under Shared Pattern or Important Difference.
Success Check: Choose the relationship.
- 4 Choose both, similarly, however, while, unlike, in contrast, or whereas.
Success Check: Match the transition to the relationship.
- 5 Rehearse the comparison aloud.
Success Check: Use both details in one sentence.
- 6 Write what the paired details prove.
Success Check: Explain; do not repeat.

Guide Sample

Compare and Climb: name a relationship, pair evidence, and explain why the relationship matters.

★ Compare and Climb (continued)

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

★ Daily Deck

Guide Routine

How to Play

- 7** Checker protects the difference in stakes.
Success Check: Political injustice is not technical experimentation.
- 8** Return to the clean copy if a detail needs repair.
Success Check: Accuracy before fluency.
- 9** Switch roles and match another pair.
Success Check: Both partners explain.
- 10** Record the strongest comparison on the team card.
Success Check: Source labels remain visible.
- 11** Read the comparison to another team.
Success Check: Defend the relationship.
- 12** Revise one word for precision.
Success Check: Use a stronger transition or explanation.

Teacher Guidance

Require a relationship word and a source label before a team records a sentence. The explanation must tell what the detail means for the paired comparison.

★ Discuss the Relationship

Day 3 · Discuss

★ Daily Deck

Draft the formal response: Explain how the two passages develop a similar idea about problem solving while showing different kinds of challenges and outcomes.

Did we use both sources?

What is each detail's job?

What do they prove together?

Did we preserve the important difference?

Student Directions: “Tell your partner what your sentence does before you decide where it belongs. Use evidence accurately, then make your thinking visible through the module HABIT.”



What Makes a Real Comparison?

Day 3 · Discuss (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

How can a writer explain similarities and differences across paired passages without turning the response into two separate summaries?

Relationship first

Paired evidence next

Significance last



★ Write the Response

Day 3 · Use

STEP 1

State a global purpose about people responding to hard problems.

STEP 2

Reference both passages accurately.

STEP 3

Write a thesis (central idea) that carries the similarity and difference.

STEP 4

Add paired evidence and an explanation sentence.

Color-code every sentence by job: green relationship, yellow evidence, red explanation, blue significant inference.

Use both passages, an explicit bridge word, an explanation of the relationship, a protected difference, and a conclusion that restates, refers to the evidence as a whole, and reflects the bigger picture.

★ Award the Evidence

Day 4 · Award

★ Daily Deck

Student Award

What can I already do? One comparison I wrote successfully, and the evidence in my work:

Point to a real sentence when you name a strength. A feeling is not evidence.

★ Choose a Target

Day 4 · Target

★ Daily Deck

Student Target

What do I want to practice next? One next step for writing a matching thesis (central idea):

Use the anchor HABIT to name the exact part you will improve: evidence, explanation, structure, conclusion, or revision.

Teach the HABIT before you show the details: relationship first; paired evidence next; significance last.

“Teach the HABIT before you show the details. Use one accurate detail from each passage as evidence for your teaching, then explain what the details help a writer understand.”

Partners teach the module move using one accurate detail from Passage 9, one from Passage 10, and one sentence from their own writing. The listener checks both sources, an accurate explanation, a protected difference, and a complete response structure.

★ Answer the Question

Day 5

★ Daily Deck

Answer the overarching question in precise words. How can a writer explain similarities and differences across paired passages without turning the response into two separate summaries? A writer keeps the response connected by naming the relationship first, pairing evidence from both texts around that relationship, using comparison transitions, and explaining why the similarity or difference matters.

★ Exit Ticket

Day 5 · Transfer

★ Daily Deck

Directions: Reread A Difficult Compromise and A Visit to the Workshop. Identify one accurate detail from each passage, choose a transition, and explain what the details show together.

Prompt: Explain how the two passages develop a similar idea about problem solving while showing different kinds of challenges and outcomes.

1. Source check. Write one accurate detail from Passage 9 and one from Passage 10. (2 points)
2. Connected response. In one sentence, state a thesis (central idea) that names the relationship. (4 points)
3. Underline the transition and explain the paired evidence. (2 points)
4. Significance. Complete: This difference matters because (2 points)

Total Score: _____ / 10

Step 1: Read two cards. Read one Passage 9 card and one Passage 10 card aloud. Sort them under Shared Pattern or Important Difference.

Step 2: Choose a bridge word. Both and similarly signal a shared pattern; however, while, and unlike signal a difference.

Step 3: Explain it. Ask what the paired details prove together. Add: This difference matters because ____.

Step 4: Say It. Students cover the cards and retrieve the relationship from memory before writing one sentence.

Both passages show ____ because Passage 9 ____ and Passage 10 ____.

“We are going to slow the work down without lowering the thinking. We will say the idea, identify the relationship, and then write.”

★ Double-Layer Comparison

Enrichment: Connect Across Texts

Purpose: Challenge students to produce a double-layer comparison: sentence 1 states a shared pattern; sentence 2 explains a critical difference; sentence 3 explains why the difference changes the meaning or significance.

Both texts show people continuing to work after an incomplete result.

Part 1: Find the relationship. Identify a shared pattern in the two texts, then name a critical difference in context or consequence.

Part 2: Write a thesis (central idea). Students write one central comparison and defend how it answers the relationship prompt.

Part 3: Develop and Transfer. Write a new sentence-statement prompt that requires both passages. Select paired evidence, explain the relationship, and protect the difference.

★ My Progress Tracker

Directions: Use evidence from your own writing, not just a feeling. Your goal is growth across the module, not perfection on Day 1.

I Can...	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Day 1: I can identify the focus and explain the shared pattern across both passages.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Day 2: I can use both passages during a partner or group activity and explain my evidence choice.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Day 3: I can apply the writing move independently in a complete response.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Day 4: I can name one strength and one specific next-step goal.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Day 5: I can teach the module idea and answer the overarching question.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!



Citizenship Connection

Careful comparison, responsible discussion, historical context, and the difference between political decisions and technical experimentation.



Students can name a shared pattern without treating the contexts or consequences as equal.

This module connects careful comparison to historical decision-making and scientific experimentation. Students study how a shared problem-solving pattern can have very different stakes and consequences. Reading both sources accurately supports responsible discussion: a writer must preserve the details that change the meaning of a comparison.

Reflect & Discuss

How can a comparison stay accurate when two situations share a pattern but differ in consequences?

Return to the overarching question and teach the HABIT from memory.

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Explain how the two passages develop a similar idea about problem solving while showing different kinds of challenges and outcomes.

LOW Level 1

“The delegates made a compromise. Edison had a bulb. Both passages are about a problem.”

What the student did successfully: Noticed that both passages include a problem.

What is missing: An accurate detail from each passage and an explanation of what the details show together.

Why it falls at this level: The response places details beside each other without naming a relationship or protecting the difference in consequences.

Exact next instructional step: Name a shared pattern, use a bridge word, and explain the paired evidence.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Explain how the two passages develop a similar idea about problem solving while showing different kinds of challenges and outcomes.

MEDIUM Level 2-3

“Both passages show people trying to move forward. The delegates made the Three-Fifths Compromise, while workers in the workshop continued working with electric light. However, the texts have different consequences.”

What the student did successfully: Uses both sources and begins to name the module's shared idea.

What is missing: A precise explanation that tells why the evidence matters and protects the important difference between the passages.

Why it falls at this level: The relationship is visible, but the response needs stronger paired explanation and significance.

Exact next instructional step: Add one explanation sentence and state why the distinction changes the meaning of the comparison.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Explain how the two passages develop a similar idea about problem solving while showing different kinds of challenges and outcomes.

HIGH Level 4

Thesis (central idea): Both passages develop a shared pattern of people working toward a result, but the challenges and outcomes are different.

Passage 9 evidence: Delegates accepted the Three-Fifths Compromise, which increased political power even though enslaved people had no right to vote or choose representatives.

Passage 10 evidence: Workers watched bulbs, recorded results, and continued their tests.

Explanation: The passages connect through continued work, yet Passage 9 shows an unjust political consequence while Passage 10 shows technical investigation.

Why it works: It uses balanced, accurate evidence and explains the module move without treating the two contexts as equal.

★ **This is our target!**