



THE WRITING ACADEMY, LLC®



Module 2

**Paired Passage HOW Prompts —
Similarities and Differences**



Grade 3 • Cluster 5



Tackling TEKS 3.12B & 3.11B — Reading & Writing

Meet Our Week!

Module Slide 1 • Module 2

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- Read two passages and track each one's plot line.
- Find evidence from BOTH texts.
- Connect the two ideas into one clear explanation.

I Can...

- Use evidence from both passages.
- Connect two texts into one answer.
- Explain how the ideas work together.

★ Two Roads That Cross

Day 1 • Gather

Ford's Road

Engines, cars, and the assembly line.

Walton's Road

Stores, prices, and customer needs.

Where They Cross

Both men saw a problem, took action, and created change — but not the same way.

Your job: become a road-mapper. Trace where the roads are alike, and where they split apart.

★ Shared Path or Split Path?

Day 1 • Reveal



**SIMILARITY = shared path • DIFFERENCE =
split path**

Paired Passage Rule: if the prompt gives you two passages, your answer must use BOTH — even for a difference.

A HOW thesis (central idea) is a simple sentence with a preposition!

★ A HOW Thesis Uses a Preposition

Day 1 • Reveal (cont.)

Similarity Example

Henry Ford and Sam Walton helped others *through* solutions that improved everyday life.

Difference Example

Henry Ford and Sam Walton changed communities *through* different kinds of problem-solving.

Preposition Words

by • through • with • in •
across

★ Watch Me Build It!

Day 1 • Reveal (cont.)

WAY by making goods more affordable

**FORD
EVID.** "...families...were finally able to buy one."

**WALTON
EVID.** "Customers liked...prices they could afford."

Prompt: Explain how Ford and Walton were similar in the ways they helped families.

Thesis: Henry Ford and Sam Walton helped everyday families **through** affordable solutions that improved daily life. This shows that both men focused on helping everyday families by lowering the cost of things people needed.

★ Crossroads Compare Quest!

Day 2 • Attempt

How to Play

1. Spin the spinner.
2. At the Crossroads, decide: shared path (similarity) or split path (difference)?
3. Find Ford evidence AND Walton evidence.
4. Connect the explanation to one idea.

With Your Team...

Choose your **Pencil Guy** marker. Build a correct thesis, evidence, and explanation to move your Pencil Guy forward on the gameboard!

★ Let's Talk About It!

Day 3 • Discuss

What makes an explanation stronger in a paired passage HOW response?

Student Directions

Finish with a partner: "A strong paired passage HOW response must..."

SIMILARITY → **shared path**

DIFFERENCE → **split path**

★ Why BOTH Even for a Difference?

Day 3 • Discuss (cont.)

"Why do we still need BOTH passages even when the prompt asks for a difference?"

A difference still depends on two texts — one text alone cannot create a comparison.

≡ Fold-and-Build Compare/Contrast

Day 3 • Use (Independent Practice) — Interactive Notebook

1

Explain how Henry Ford and Sam Walton were similar in the ways they helped everyday families.

2

Explain how Henry Ford and Sam Walton were different in the ways they solved problems.

3

Explain how both men were similar in the impact they had on daily life.

Decide same or different, write a HOW thesis, find Ford AND Walton evidence, then connect them in one explanation.

© I Balanced Two Texts with One Mind!

Day 4 • Award & Target

Did I decide correctly between similarity and difference, use BOTH passages, write a HOW thesis with a preposition, and write one clear explanation?

Curiosity Questions

How can two different solutions create similar results? Why is it important to understand both similarities and differences?

Exit Ticket

Day 5 • Educate & Explain to Others

Explain how Henry Ford and Sam Walton were similar in the impact they had on people's lives.

On your own: decide same path or split path, then write a HOW thesis (central idea), evidence from BOTH texts, and one connecting explanation.



Match the Mirror or Split the Path

Small-Group Support

Mirror

Similarity. "This belongs under similarity because..."

Split Path

Difference. "This belongs under difference because..."

Frame

"Both passages show..." /
"The passages are different because..."

Slow it down: sort the sentence strip on the correct mat, then explain why.

② Double Lens Challenge

Enrichment • Write in your notebook

Choose one similarity prompt AND one difference prompt about the same two passages.

For each, write a thesis (central idea), two pieces of evidence, and one explanation.

Explain: how did my thinking change when I switched from similarity to difference?

✓ My Progress Tracker

Directions

This tracker is for YOU! As you practice connecting two texts into one answer, look at each skill. If you can do it all by yourself, color in or check the box that matches how you feel.

Be honest with yourself — this helps you see how much you are growing!

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Explain how Henry Ford and Sam Walton were similar in the ways they helped everyday families.

LOW

"Henry Ford and Sam Walton were the same. They both helped people. Ford made cars and Walton made a store."

What's working: Names both men and a shared idea — that both helped people.

What's missing: No HOW thesis (central idea) with a preposition and no evidence from either passage. It needs a preposition-based thesis, one piece of evidence from each passage, and an explanation that connects the texts to show HOW the two men were similar.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Explain how Henry Ford and Sam Walton were similar in the ways they helped everyday families.

MEDIUM

"Henry Ford and Sam Walton were similar because they helped families. The text stated, 'Many families who had never owned a car before were finally able to buy one.' This shows Ford helped families. Sam Walton also helped families by keeping prices low."

What's working: Names the similarity and includes one real quote from the Ford passage.

What's missing: The thesis (central idea) uses "because" instead of a preposition like "through" or "by," and it needs one real quote from the Walton passage plus an explanation that connects BOTH texts.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Explain how Henry Ford and Sam Walton were similar in the ways they helped everyday families.

HIGH

"Problem-solvers can improve life for others when they create practical solutions. Both passages describe men who noticed everyday needs and developed solutions that made life easier for families. Henry Ford and Sam Walton helped everyday families through affordable solutions that improved daily life. One way both men were similar was by making important goods more affordable for ordinary people. The text stated, 'Many families who had never owned a car before were finally able to buy one.' The passage explained, 'Customers liked finding many items in one place at prices they could afford.' This shows that both men focused on helping everyday families by lowering the cost of things people needed."

What's working: A HOW thesis (central idea) with a preposition ("through"), evidence from BOTH passages with signal phrases, and one connected explanation that clearly states the similarity. This is our Module 2 target!