



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC



Module 2

HOW Ideas Connect and Differ

Grade 4 · Cluster 5

Tackling TEKS · Reading & Writing

4.11(B)(ii) · 4.11(B)(iv) · 4.12(B)(i) · 4.12(B)(ii) · 4.12(B)(iii) · 4.11(C)(i) · 4.11(C)(ii) · 4.11(C)(v) · 4.11(C)(vi) · 4.11(D)(i) ·
4.11(D)(xv) · 4.11(D)(xvi) · 4.11(D)(xvii)



★ Meet Our Week!

★ Daily Deck

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

I Will...

- I will read both passages closely and talk about relationships between ideas.
- I will use balanced evidence from both passages.
- I will use precise comparison transitions to name the relationship.
- I will explain my thinking and revise for clarity.

I Can...

- I can compare similarities and differences and explain how both passages develop related ideas.
- I can identify whether a HOW prompt asks for a similarity or a difference.
- I can use evidence from both passages to prove a relationship.
- I can explain how solution or resolution strengthens a comparison.



From Two Facts to One Comparison

★ Daily Deck

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

Passages: “Looking Back to Move Forward” & “Voices That Shaped Texas”

Informative · Medium Stamina

How can comparing similarities and differences across two passages help us explain how influence happens?

Your job today is not just to find facts. Your job is to notice the relationship between those facts.

Name the relationship first.

★ Dot the Tricky Words

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

★ Daily Deck

D

Dot

Place a small dot above any word you are not sure about yet.

O

Discover

Discover the meaning as we learn together through our lessons.

T

Drop

Erase the dot once you know what the word means.

A little dot above a word means:
“I’m not sure about this word yet.”

Dot the word. Discover the meaning. Drop the dot, then celebrate when you own it!



HOW Ideas Connect and Differ

Day 1 · Reveal

★ Daily Deck

=

SIMILARITIES

Mirror = a meaningful similarity.

≠

DIFFERENCES

Window = a meaningful difference.

R

RELATIONSHIP

A strong comparison names the relationship before giving evidence.

What evidence from both passages will help me explain the answer?

What is being compared? Is the prompt asking for similarity or difference?

★ Name the Relationship

Day 1 · Reveal (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Similar or Different?

Similar Both passages show that ideas and voices can influence communities.

Different Looking Back to Move Forward follows Ava's learning, while Voices That Shaped Texas presents several artists.

Ask: *Is this a mirror moment where the texts are alike, or a window moment where the texts are different?*

Watch Me!

Just a list: Both passages show that sharing ideas can affect how people think and connect.

Named difference: “Looking Back to Move Forward follows a narrative, while Voices That Shaped Texas presents examples about several artists.”

You are already thinking like comparers and contrast thinkers.



Compare-Conquer Station Quest

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

★ Daily Deck

Passages: “Looking Back to Move Forward” & “Voices That Shaped Texas”

How to Play

- 1 Station 1: Similar or Different Sort.
- 2 Station 2: Matching Relationship Cards.
- 3 Station 3: Spinner Response Builder.
- 4 Station 4: Gameboard Challenge, Path of Proof.

Success Check: *Did you name a similarity or difference and prove it with balanced evidence?*

At Every Station...

Similarity

Both passages show that ideas can influence people and communities.

or name a difference

Difference

Looking Back to Move Forward follows a narrative, while Voices That Shaped Texas presents examples about several artists.

What made the strongest comparison answers?

How can you tell whether a HOW prompt is asking for a **similarity** or a **difference**?

Why is it important to explain the **relationship** instead of just listing two details?

How does the **resolution** in the first passage help with comparison?

Why must we use **both passages** in a paired response?

Student Directions: “Circle the comparison word in the prompt. Then choose comparison words to use in your own writing.”



What Makes a Comparison Strong?

Day 3 · Discuss (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

What evidence proves your comparison?

**a named similarity
or difference**

**precise comparison
transitions**

**balanced evidence
from both texts**

Do not stop after listing two facts. Name the relationship: both..., while..., unlike..., however...



Try It On Your Own!

Day 3 · Use (Independent Practice) · Interactive Notebook

COMPARE

Label the left side Passage 1: Looking Back to Move Forward. Label the right side Passage 2: Voices That Shaped Texas.

EVIDENCE

On each side, collect one or two pieces of evidence that match the prompt.

EXPLAIN

Circle the comparison word in the prompt. Be sure your thesis (central idea) clearly names the relationship.

SWEEP

Revise word choice for precision, COMBINE two related ideas when helpful, REARRANGE ideas so the relationship is easy to follow, and underline the transition or prepositional phrase that clarifies the relationship.

Collect evidence on both sides, then write a thesis (central idea) that names the relationship.

★ Award & Target!

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

Award 🏆

Give yourself credit for leveling up your thinking today.

- Using both passages.
- Explaining a similarity clearly.
- Spotting an important difference.
- Using the resolution in my answer.

Target 🎯

“Today I ruled my thinking by ____.”

Curiosity Questions

How would the first passage change if Ava never connected the painting to a larger lesson about ideas?



Exit Ticket

Day 5 · Educate & Explain to Others

★ Daily Deck

How can comparing similarities and differences across two passages help us explain how influence happens?

“This prompt is asking for a similarity because _____. This prompt is asking for a difference because _____. In both passages _____.”

Finish: “A strong paired response needs _____.”



Similar or Different Sort

Small-Group Support

★ Daily Deck

Name the relationship first. Select one relevant detail from each passage.
Say the comparison aloud before writing it.

“Both passages show that ideas can influence people and communities.”

“Looking Back to Move Forward follows a narrative, while Voices That Shaped Texas presents examples about several artists.”

Support Frame: “The passages are different because ____.”

Ask: does this sound like alike or not alike?

★ Comparison Architect

Enrichment · Write in your notebook

Challenge: Write one similarity and two differences. Use at least two details from each passage.

Explain how both passages help readers understand important ideas in different ways.

Write one similarity statement.

Write two difference statements.

Explain how the first passage's resolution strengthens understanding.

★ My Progress Tracker

This tracker is for YOU! As you read and write this week, look at each skill. If you can do it all by yourself, color in the box that matches how you feel. Be honest, this helps you see how much you are growing!

I Can...	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Tell whether a HOW prompt asks for similarity or difference.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Name the relationship before selecting evidence.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Use balanced evidence from both passages.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Explain how evidence proves the comparison.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Use resolution and structure to deepen a comparison.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it



Citizenship Connection

Good Citizens · Our Community & Country

★ Fairness and responsibility

“They began to believe that citizens should have a voice.” Some people began to think in new ways about government and fairness. In “Voices That Shaped Texas,” the artists’ music ‘brought people together’ and gave others a chance to be heard.

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Explain how the passages differ in the way they show cultural influence.

LOW Level 1

“Ava learned about old ideas. Lydia Mendoza sang songs.”

What Is Working: The response mentions both passages.

Teacher Notes: It lists facts without naming or explaining the relationship.

What Needs Improvement: State how the passages differ and explain how the evidence proves that difference.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Explain how the passages differ in the way they show cultural influence.

MEDIUM Level 2-3

“The passages are different because Ava learns about the Renaissance, while Texas artists share music. The first passage says citizens should have a voice. The second says music brought people together.”

What Is Working: The response identifies a difference, uses while, and includes evidence from both texts.

Teacher Notes: The explanation does not yet show how each passage's method develops cultural influence.

What Needs Improvement: Explain that one passage develops influence through Ava's learning and resolution, while the other develops it through several artists and their contributions.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Explain how the passages differ in the way they show cultural influence.

HIGH Level 4

“The passages show cultural influence in different ways. Looking Back to Move Forward follows Ava as she learns about Renaissance art and government ideas, so the reader experiences her growing understanding through a narrative. Voices That Shaped Texas presents several artists and explains how their music, traditions, and achievements shaped Texas culture. This means the first passage teaches through Ava’s learning and resolution, while the second builds its idea through examples of multiple influential people.”

What Is Working: The response directly answers the HOW prompt, uses balanced passage evidence, and explains how structure changes the development of influence.

Teacher Notes: The relationship is precise, coherent, and fully explained.

★ **This is our target!**