

FAMILY PACKET

Family Packet, Grade 5, Cluster 5, Module 2: HOW Responses, Similarities, Differences, and Relationships

A warm, plain language guide to what your student is learning this week, with easy ways to talk and work together at home. **Every page is in English and Spanish.**

This week your student moves from reading two passages to explaining how they relate. The class reads "A Difficult Compromise," a nonfiction passage about representation and the Three-Fifths Compromise, and "A Visit to the Workshop," historical fiction about Zaylen's visit to Thomas Edison's workshop.

A strong response does not place two summaries side by side. Your student names one accurate detail from each passage, uses a bridge word such as both, however, while, or unlike, and explains what the pair shows together. Ask your student to teach you the relationship first. You can work through this packet together in about ten minutes.

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En español

Todo este paquete también está disponible en español.

1 1 Family Letter

Dear Families,

This week your student is learning how to explain a relationship across paired passages. We will read "A Difficult Compromise," a nonfiction passage about representation and the Three-Fifths Compromise, and "A Visit to the Workshop," historical fiction about Zaylen's visit to Thomas Edison's workshop.

Students will use the habit of this week, which is relationship first, paired evidence next, and significance last. Ask your student to name one accurate detail from each passage, use a bridge word, and explain what the two details show together. The response must preserve the difference between an unjust political decision and technical experimentation.

At home, name one thing that is similar in two places you know well and one thing that is different. Ask your student which word shows the relationship and why the difference matters. Teaching the relationship out loud is part of how the skill sticks.

With appreciation,

[Classroom teacher signature]

The Writing Academy, LLC

NAME THE RELATIONSHIP FIRST

Ask your student to say how the two passages are similar, how they differ, or how they relate before naming any detail. The relationship is the sentence that controls the whole response.

The skill, in plain words

Your student is learning to explain how two texts relate. That means naming the shared pattern or the important difference, then using accurate evidence from both passages to prove it. The explanation is what makes a comparison real instead of a list.

The standard, in plain words

This week the work connects to three Texas standards for informative writing. Your student composes an informational text with a clear central idea, uses the characteristics of the genre, and uses craft such as precise transitions. Your student also organizes a focused, structured, and coherent piece. In plain words, your student learns to say clearly how two texts are alike, how they are not, and why it matters.

The three parts of the comparison**Red, the explanation**

Tells what the paired details from both passages mean together

**Yellow, the evidence**

Uses one accurate detail from each passage

**Green, the shared idea**

Names the similarity, the difference, or the relationship

How to help without giving the answer

- Ask your student to name the relationship before any detail.
- Ask which bridge word fits, both, however, while, or unlike, and why.
- Ask what the two details prove together rather than what they are about.
- Ask which important difference must stay clear in the answer.
- Let your student write. Your job is to ask good questions, not to supply the answer.

relationship

the way two ideas or details connect

Example, the relationship between the passages is continued work.

evidence

a specific detail from a source used as proof

Example, the compromise helped the group move forward is one piece of evidence.

thesis (central idea)

the central answer that controls a response

Example, both passages show people working toward a result.

transition

a word or phrase that connects ideas

Example, however shows that something is different.

explanation

reasoning that tells what the paired details mean

Example, the explanation joins the two paired details.

pattern

something two texts have in common

Example, the shared pattern is continued work.

compare

to explain meaningful similarities

Example, compare the shared problem solving pattern.

contrast

to explain meaningful differences

Example, contrast the political stakes with the technical challenge.

consequence

what happens because of an action or decision

Example, the two passages have different consequences.

synthesis

new understanding made by combining ideas from more than one source

Example, synthesis means using both passages to say something new.

persistence

continued effort even when work is difficult

Example, persistence shows in the workshop team that kept testing.

delegate

a person chosen to represent others

Example, a delegate spoke for a whole state at the convention.

Tip for reading together. When a new word appears in a passage, pause and let your student use the sentence around it to figure out the meaning before you explain. Naming the guess out loud builds confidence.

4 Our Thinking Tool

A HOW prompt asks one of three questions about two texts. The chart below shows the three thinking types and the bridge word each one uses. Your student picks the type first, then gathers evidence, then explains.

The three HOW types and the bridge word

Thinking type	Clue words	What the writer explains
Similarity	how two texts are alike	Names the shared idea and uses evidence from both passages.
Difference	how two texts differ	Uses however, while, unlike, whereas, or in contrast.
Relationship	how the texts connect	Explains what the paired details show together and why it matters.

Mini version to use at home

Try it together

Ask your student which of the three HOW types fits this pair. The delegates kept talking about representation after the first agreement, while Edison's workers kept testing bulbs after the bulb glowed. Ask your student to name the type, choose a bridge word, and finish the sentence, Together, these details show ____.

Answer for families. The type is relationship, because the two details connect through continued work. Together, these details show that progress can move work forward while the consequences stay very different.

TRACKS While reading, students also look for evidence in the passages using TRACKS, which stands for **Time, Reactions, Actions, Character or Concept, Key Knowledge, and Scenery or Setting**. Ask your student which TRACKS detail from each passage they would use.

5 Conversation Starters and a Simple Family Activity

- How is a real comparison different from two separate descriptions?
- What shared pattern do you notice in the two passages?
- What difference changes the meaning of that comparison?
- Which bridge word best shows the relationship, both, however, while, or unlike?
- Why can two situations share a pattern without being equal in consequences?

Talk, Pair, Explain

Choose two familiar books, games, recipes, routines, or events. Name one accurate detail from each. Next use a bridge word such as both, however, while, or unlike. Finally explain what the two details show together.

Sentence Job Check

Write three short sentences about the two choices. Label each sentence by its job, an idea, a detail, or an explanation. Revise one sentence so its job is clearer.

6 What Strong Work Looks Like

Here is a strong answer to this week's writing prompt. Each part of the response has its own job.

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

Thesis (central idea)

Both passages develop a shared pattern of people working toward a result, but the challenges and outcomes are different.

Evidence from both passages

Delegates accepted the Three-Fifths Compromise, which increased political power even though enslaved people had no right to vote. Workers watched bulbs, recorded results, and continued their tests.

Explanation and significance

The passages connect through continued work, yet Passage 9 shows an unjust political consequence while Passage 10 shows technical investigation. This difference matters because persistence can move a plan forward while still producing very different consequences.

Checklist for strong work

- ☐ Both passages are named or clearly used in the answer.
- ☐ The response names the shared pattern or the important difference before it names details.
- ☐ A bridge word shows the exact relationship between the two details.
- ☐ The explanation tells what the paired details show together.
- ☐ The important difference in context and consequence stays clear.

7 Progress at Home

My student can...

- ☐ name the relationship first, similarity, difference, or relationship
- ☐ choose one accurate detail from each passage
- ☐ use a bridge word that shows the exact relationship
- ☐ explain what the two details show together
- ☐ keep one important difference clear
- ☐ say why the relationship matters beyond one detail

Student name

Family signature

Date

Please sign and send this page back to school with your student. The teacher will celebrate the progress together with your student.