A concept is defined by Lynn Erickson as "a mental construct that is timeless, universal and abstract." Concepts, such as intertextuality, ecosystems, prime numbers, and culture, are rich ideas to which facts and examples are attached.

Using examples and non-examples as well as comparison and contrast as students are learning new concepts helps to clarify complex ideas, to expose relationships and patterns among even dissimilar concepts, and to organize new information into meaningful constructs.

Not all topics are concepts, however, and the two terms shouldn’t be confused. Neither are causes considered concepts.
Chapter Name

Mission

To use examples and non-examples to enhance student understanding of the concepts.

First Impressions

• How can you use examples and non-examples in a meaningful way to guide student learning?
Objectsives:

Students will be able to...

1. Identify how to teach concepts by using examples and non-examples.
2. Determine when it is appropriate to use the strategy.
3. Plan a lesson that uses examples and non-examples.
4. Examine a video that uses a Frayer Map to illustrate use of examples and non-examples in the classroom.

Section 1

Exploration

Examples and non-examples can be featured anywhere in a unit or lesson, but are most often used when introducing new concepts. Using examples helps students to generalize concepts and see relationships among similar ideas. Non-examples, on the other hand, teach students to differentiate among ideas and concepts so that they do not over-generalize.
How do you implement the strategy?

Step 1. Name or label the concept to be discussed.

Step 2. Provide a definition of the concept that is specific enough to differentiate it from other concepts.

Step 3. Identify and discuss key attributes that distinguish the concept in question from other similar concepts.

Step 4. Give examples that fit the definition and illustrate these essential attributes.

Step 5. Identify and discuss non-examples so that students can see and practice differentiation.
The **Frayer model** is a graphic organizer used to analyze a concept by:
- Name or Label
- Definition
- Examples
- Essential Attributes
- Non-Essential Attributes
- Non-Examples

In this *video*, the teacher uses examples and non-examples in conjunction with the Frayer model to teach her students about propaganda used during the Holocaust. As you watch, consider what you have learned about using examples and non-examples.
Take a Look

Challenge: Video Analysis

Analyze how the teacher in this video uses examples and non-examples to teach the lesson’s concept to students.

Plan your lesson

Using a blank template of the infographic on the previous page, plan out your own lesson using examples and non-examples.
Hot Links

Discipline References of Examples and Non-examples

* Math: [Polynomial examples and nonexamples](#)

* History: [de facto vs. de jure segregation](#)

* English: [Examples: Paraphrasing Plagiarism: How to Recognize Plagiarism](#)

* Science: [Using Visual Examples to Teach Boyle's Law](#)

* Business: [Business communications](#)

* General: [Frayer Model | Classroom Strategies](#)
Review

Examples and non-examples...

- support concept mastery.
- develops skills needed for problem-solving.
- to help students transfer previously learned knowledge to new concepts.
- promote autonomy in concept acquisition.
Section 4
Resources

Retrieved from http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Y2x-3lm9IU.
To aid students in developing critical thinking skills and provide a means to organize new information.

First Impressions

- How can you design and use the compare & contrast instructional strategy in a meaningful way to guide student learning?
Objectives:

Students will be able to...

1. Identify how to teach concepts by using comparison and contrast.
2. Determine when it is appropriate to use the strategy.
3. Plan a lesson that uses the compare and contrast strategy.
4. Examine a site that demonstrates the classroom use of comparison and contrast.

Identifying patterns is a natural process for humans, and compare and contrast capitalizes on this intrinsic ability in order to aid learning. The strategy can be used at any point in a lesson to help students gain a deeper understanding of the concepts being explored.
Section 2

What's This?

Comparing and Contrasting being explained by the UNC Writing Center
How do you implement the strategy?

Step 1. Select concepts to compare and contrast.

Step 2. Determine what format students will use to compare and contrast the concepts, e.g., using a graphic organizer.

Step 3. Provide students time to brainstorm similarities and differences between concepts.

Step 4. Ask students to determine possible relationships between concepts based on findings.

Step 5. Check for comprehension.

How do you use compare and contrast effectively?

The compare and contrast technique works best when there is a close relationship between the concepts being discussed.

For example, you might ask students to compare and contrast...

- the protagonist and antagonist of a story or two poems, movies, or plays in language arts.
- photosynthesis and digestion or two celestial bodies in science.
- two historical figures or two houses of Congress in social studies.
- two geometric shapes or real and rational numbers in math.
Hot Links

- **Instructional Strategies Online: Compare & Contrast** More information about the compare and contrast strategy with links to graphic organizers.

- **Thoughtful Classroom: Compare & Contrast Sample Lessons** Sample lessons from prominent author Harvey Silver.

- **Compare and Contrast Ideas on Pinterest** There are more where this came from. Pinterest is quickly becoming a storehouse for educational strategies.

- **Using compare and contrast to teach the Common Core** A collection of strategies for sixth through eighth grade classrooms with blank templates and primary resources in appendix.
Examine this site where one high school teacher demonstrates how she incorporates compare and contrast while covering the topic of essays. Notice how she introduces the topic by specifically stating the purpose of the activity.

She models the technique while emphasizing the academic language used for the instructional strategy, and she includes guided practice time within the lesson.

After reviewing this lesson, take a moment to think about the reasons she provided for choosing compare/contrast as an instructional strategy. Consider how this approach could understanding within your content area.
1. How could you use the compare and contrast strategy with this visual?

2. What format would you use with this visual (e.g., Venn diagram, chart, essay) to convey the most information to your students and check for their understanding?

3. How might your students’ work be enhanced by using the compare and contrast strategy with this visual?
Review

Compare and contrast...

• reinforces concepts in students’ memory.
• deepens students’ understanding of concepts.
• sharpens students’ analytical skills.
• clarifies abstract concepts.

How could you use these images to encourage your students to compare and contrast?
Credits

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