Identifying Similarities and Difference

Purpose:
Comparing, classifying, creating metaphors and analogies, each involves identifying how items, events, process, or concepts are similar and different.

- To **Compare** is to identify similarities and differences between or among things or ideas.
- **Classifying** involves grouping things into definable categories based on like characteristics.
- **Metaphors** link two things that appear to be quite different on the surface but have some likenesses (e.g. " she was a grizzly bear in the morning")
- **Analogies** involve relationships between pairs of concepts. Typically, an analogy follows the form A:B as C:D. (e.g. "happy is to sad as big is to small")

Procedures:

- **Comparing**
1. What do I want to compare?
2. What things about them do I want to compare?

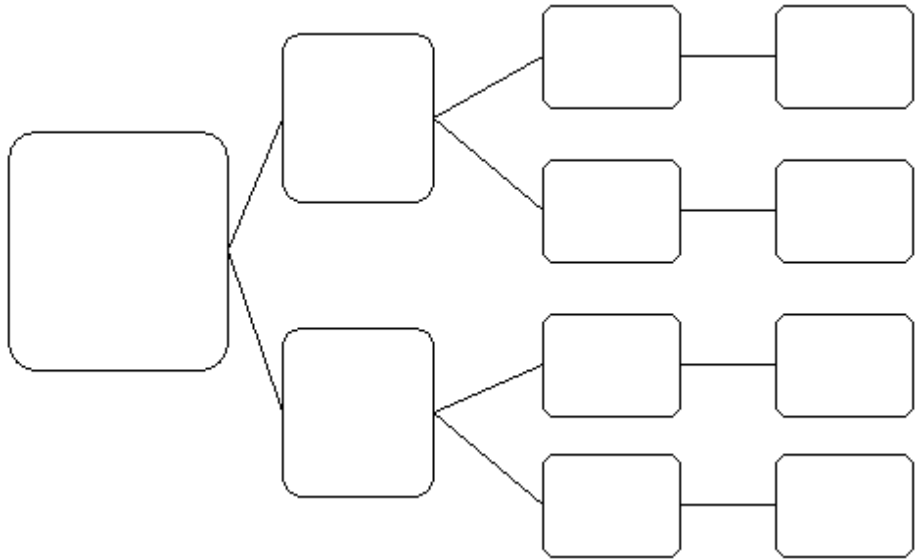How are they the same? How are they different?

Comparison Matrix

Characteristics	Items to be Compared			
				Similarities — — — — — **Differences**
				Similarities — — — — — **Differences**
				Similarities — — — — — **Differences**
Conclusions			

- **Classifying**
1. What do I want to classify?
2. What things are alike that I can put into a group?
3. How are these things alike?
4. What other groups can I make? How are the things in each group alike?
5. Does everything fit into a group now?
6. Would it be better to split up any of the groups or put any groups together?
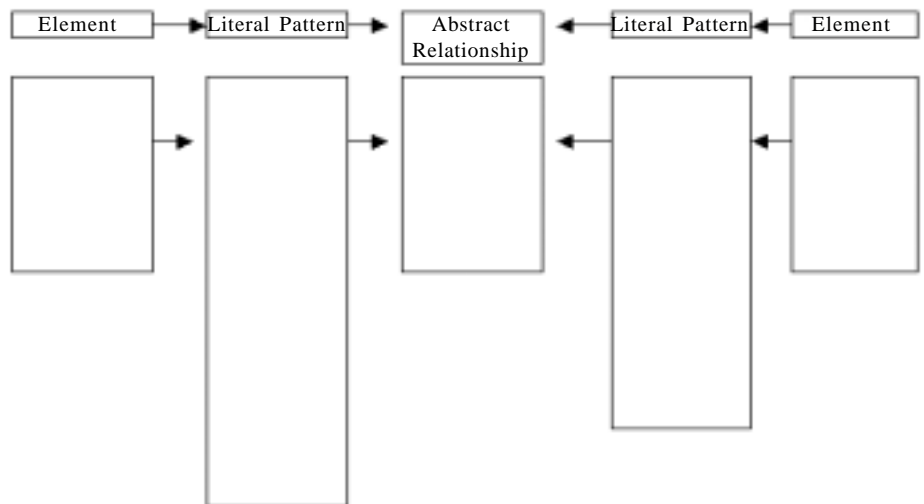
Classification Organizer

- **Creating Metaphors**
1. What is important here?
2. How can I say the same thing in a more general way?
3. What else has the same general pattern?

Metaphor Organizer

Element		Literal Pattern		Abstract Relationship		Literal Pattern		Element

- **Creating Analogies**
1. What is the connection between the first two things?
2. How can I describe this connection?
3. Do the second two things have a connection like the first two?

Analogies Organizer

A   B

is to

As

C   D

is to

For more information see Marzano, R.J., et al. (2001). A Handbook for Classroom Instruction That Works. Virginia:ASCD.