

When Super Idol Meets Super Star Avenue

Abstract

This lesson plan aims to teach students to write a comparison and contrast article. There are four periods of all. At first, the students read two articles about the differences and similarities in American English and British English. These two articles are written in different organization. One is written in “Block Organization” while the other is written in “Point-by-point Organization”. Students need to understand the advantages and disadvantages in these two writing styles and know how to write a comparison and contrast article in these two different writing styles. In the plan, students need to be divided into groups and have their discussion about the popular TV programs in present days: Super Idol and Super Star Avenue. They need to make comparison and contrast between these two TV programs and write an article in each group at first. The final goal is every student can write a comparison and contrast article after having an experience of group writing. At the last period, the teacher gives some feedback for students and reminds students of some writing skills and mistakes they may make.

Key words: Comparison and contrast essay, transition signal

Grade level

For in the third grade students in senior high school

Lesson Objectives

1. Cognitive Domain:

1. Understand the main idea of comparison and contrast writing.

1.1 Know how to compare same features of two things.

1.2 Know how to contrast different features of two things.

1.3 Know how to write “Block Organization”.

1.4 Know how to write “Point-by-Point Organization”.

2. Use the acquired grammar in the writing.

2.1 Make sentences with the correct grammar.

3. Use the acquired vocabulary in the writing.

3.1 Spell the words correctly.

3.2 Use correct vocabulary.

3.3 Use correct transition signals.

II. The Affective Domain:

1. Enjoy the English class.

2. Participate in group competition or activities enthusiastically.

3. Appreciate different point of views.

III. The psychomotor Domain:

1. Know when to write a comparison and contrast article.

2. Use comparison and contrast writing in the article.

3. Develop critical thinking for two sides of one thing.

Time Allotment

Period	
I	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greeting 2 minutes 2. Pre-reading activity (Brain-Storming) 10 minutes 3. Reading (Two articles) 5 minutes 4. Group Discussion (The similarities and differences in the two articles) 15 minutes 5. Explanation (Two way of comparison and contrast writing) 15 minutes 6. Assignment (Watch the two TV programs on youtube) 3 minutes
II	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Warm-up (Asking questions) 5 minutes 2. Find out (Transition signals in the two articles) 5 minutes 3. Explanation of writing skills (Two articles) 15 minutes 4. Group Discussion (Two TV programs) 20 minutes 5. Closure & Assignment 2 minutes
III	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Warm up: Review the writing skills of comparison and contrast 10 minutes 2. Group Work (Write an article) 35 minutes 3. Closure & Assignment (Write an article individually) 5 minutes
IV	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greeting 5 minutes 2. Discussion (Students' work) 40 minutes 3. Closure 5 minutes

The First Period

Activities	Time	Teaching Aids
1. Greeting	2 minutes	
2. Pre-reading (Brain-Storming)	10 minutes	
3. Reading (Two articles)	5 minutes	reading sheets
4. Group Discussion (The similarities and differences in the two articles)	15 minutes	working sheets
5. Explanation (Two way of comparison and contrast writing)	15 minutes	powerpoint projector, computer
6. Assignment (Watch the two TV programs on youtube)	3 minutes	

Teaching Procedures:

1. Greeting 2 minutes

T: Good morning, students.

S: Good morning.

T: How are you today?

S: (No identical answer).

T: Today, we have some activities to do. Before we start, let us have some brain-storming.

2. Pre-reading (Brain-Storming) 5 minutes

T: You know that we all learn American English (AE) now, but can you tell me why we learn American English rather than British English (BE)?

S: Because America is now the strongest country in the whole world.

T: That's right. Then do you know what the similarities and differences between AE and BE?

S: (Individual different responses.)

3. Reading (Two articles) 5 minutes

The teacher gives students the two articles (Appendix 1) and asks them to see the different style in these two articles.

4. Group Discussion (The similarities and differences in the two articles) 15 minutes

T: Now, since you finish reading the two articles, first, please find your own group and have a group discussion to share your feelings with your group members. Second, please discuss with each other about what are the similarities and the differences according to this article. Here are some working sheets. Each group will have one sheet and please make an outline about the similarities and the differences in AE and BE. Now, please work.

T: Now, time's up. Would you please tell me what are the similarities and the differences in AE and BE.

S: (Share their discussion)

5. Explanation (Two way of comparison and contrast writing) 15 minutes

T: (Use the powerpoint in Appendix 2) In these two articles, there are two kinds of writing styles to make a comparison and contrast writing. The first one is called "Block organization". The author puts all the similarities and all the differences together in a block. Therefore, you may see every similarity in a paragraph and every difference in another. In this type, you could discuss either the similarities first or the differences first. On the contrary, the second writing style is called "Point-by-point organization". You can see the clue from the name of this style. The author makes comparisons and contrasts between the two things by different points. Thus, you may see that the similarities and differences of the two things you want to talk about are in the same paragraph.

6. Assignment (Watch the two TV programs on youtube) 3 minutes

T: Today, we have a very interesting homework. Only you have to do is surf on the Internet and get to "youtube". You must search for the section of films about "Super Idol" and "Super Star Avenue". Watching only one section in each TV program is enough. I want you to think about the style, adjudicator, singer, host and so on in these two programs. Please think about which program is more attractive to you. We will have some discussion tomorrow.

The Second Period

Activities	Time	Teaching Aids
1. Warm-up (Asking questions)	5 minutes	
2. Find out (Transition signals in the two articles)	5 minutes	
3. Explanation of writing skills (Two articles)	15 minutes	reading sheets
4. Group Discussion (Two TV programs)	20 minutes	working sheets
5. Closure & Assignment	2 minutes	

Teaching Procedures:

1. Warm-up (Asking questions) 5 minutes

T: Good afternoon, class. Did you see the two TV programs yesterday? Maybe you have been already familiar with these two TV programs. We will have our discussions later. First, I want you take out the two articles we have read yesterday.

2. Find out (Transition signals in the two articles) 5 minutes

T: There are some things we have to work with these reading sheets. Now, please find out any transition signals in the articles to make the author's idea smoother. These transition signals are words that may connect two sentences or make a transition between two sentences to represent different viewpoints. These words are often conjunctions, connectors, or adverbs. Please find them out now. I'll give you two minutes.

T: OK, now, please tell me what you found.

S: (Show their answers).

3. Explanation of writing skills (Two articles) 15 minutes

T: (Use the powerpoint) When writing comparison and contrast writing, there are some good transition signals in writing. When we want to compare the similarities, we may use "similarity, likewise, also, or too". However, when we want to make contrasts, we may use words such as "however, although, but, or despite". These words are all good when you want to write such an article.

4. Group Discussion (Two TV programs) 20 minutes

T: Now, it's time for you to have group discussion about your feelings and thinking about the two TV programs. Here are the working sheets. Please write down the differences and similarities you discover in these two TV programs. Try to find as more as possible.

T: Time's up. You must share your discussion with other classmates to see if there is something you didn't take notice. (Ask each group to represent their discussion about the differences and similarities in these two TV programs and write down these on the blackboard by the teacher as the followings.)

Super Idol vs. Super Star Avenue

	Similarities	Differences
1.	Both have five adjudicators.	Super Idol has more professional adjudicators for the singing styles. Super Star Avenue has adjudicators in every aspect such as clothes, dances, and so on.
2.	The patterns are similar: first there are 100 participants, and then these participants are eliminated through the competition.	There are different scoring ways in these two TV programs.
3.	When there are only 20 participants, they are "transformed" by a modeling team.	There are some reviews and previews about the participants in Super Star Avenue.
4.	There are always "PK competitors" for the participants.	These two programs are played in different time. Super Idol is played on Sunday night while Super Star Avenue is played on Friday night.
5.	Both have female hosts.	The stage is bigger in Super Star Avenue.

5. Closure & Assignment 2 minutes

T: Today, we have much discussion about two "hot" TV programs in the present days. If you have any new ideas, please share them with us. The homework today is that each group should post your discussion sheet on our English blog so that other classmates can see it. Please keep your working sheet, we will continue using it tomorrow.

The Third Period

Activities	Time	Teaching Aids
1. Warm-up: Review the writing skills of comparison and contrast	10 minutes	powerpoint, projector, computer
2. Group Work (Write an article)	35 minutes	
3. Closure & Assignment (Write an article individually)	5 minutes	reading sheets

Teaching Procedures:

1. Warm up: Review the writing skills of comparison and contrast 10 minutes

T: Good morning, students. First, I want to have a little review about what we have learned in these days (Review the writing skills in comparison and contrast writing).

2. Group Work (Write an article) 35 minutes

T: Since we had some discussion about the two TV programs yesterday, I want you to write an article about the similarities and differences in Super Idol and Super Star Avenue. Each group will write one article. Every one must join the discussion and write some sentences. First, you should choose which type you want, Block Organization or Point-by-point Organization. Second, you need to put suitable transition signals in your article. Now, please work together.

T: Everyone is very hard-working. Now, please turn in your article.

3. Closure & Assignment (Write an article individually) 5 minutes

T: I believe that you have learned a lot from discussion and group writing. You should find a topic you are interested and write a comparison and contrast article by your own. This is your assignment today, and please turn in your article tomorrow. We will have an overall discussion and conclusion in the next class. Please remember not to copy others' article directly. Try your best to do it by yourself.

The Fourth Period

Activities	Time	Teaching Aids
1. Greeting	5 minutes	
2. Discussion (Students' work)	40 minutes	powerpoint, computer, projector
3. Closure	5 minutes	

Teaching Procedures:

1. Greeting 5 minutes

T: Good afternoon, class. This is our final part of comparison and contrast writing. I hope you know how to write this type of article well. We will see your work today. I make a powerpoint about some mistakes you make and some good examples you have. Don't worry. I won't put your name on my powerpoint. Only I want to do is let you see what the mistakes you may make and be careful next time. Those who did a great job give us some good examples for writing skills and you can learn from them.

2. Discussion (Students' work) 40 minutes

T: Please divide into your groups and share your article with other group members. You need to read all the articles from others and give them some comments.

T: (The teacher uses the powerpoint line by line, paragraph by paragraph to show some mistakes and good examples for all the students. Please see Appendix 2.)

3. Closure 5 minutes

T: We have a good ending about our comparison and contrast writing. Hope you can use this writing style well in the future.

Appendix 1: Two Articles

Article 1 (Block Organization)

English is important because it is the common language of the whole world. However, there are two kinds of “English”. In the United Kingdom, it is called “British English”, which is considered to be more formal since it is used by royals in British. In the United State, it is called “American English”. The vowels in British English are pronounced backer and there are different spellings between British English and American English. For example, the spelling –er in American English becomes –re in British English such as theater versus theatre. In addition, the spelling –or in American English is the same as –our in British English such as flavor versus flavour. Moreover, if we take a look at the usage of the words, we can find that even some words are used differently in American English from British English. In British, people use the word “underground”; in contrast, American people use “subway” to represent the same transportation. Besides, the word “lift” in British is so called “elevator” in American.

Despite of many differences, there are some similarities in British English and American English. The two kinds of “English” are originated from the same country, the United Kingdom; therefore, many words in daily life are pronounced exactly the same. In addition, since they are both English, the vowel and consonant system in these two countries are similar to each other, both basically have 13 vowels and 24 consonants. The most important of all, they have the same ancestors in the past. These two types of English only can be viewed as different dialects in English.

Article 2 (Point-by-point Organization)

English is important because it is the common language of the whole world. However, there are two kinds of “English”, which have different names: it is called “British English” in the United Kingdom, while it is named “American English” in the United State. British English is considered to be more formal than American English since it is used by royals in British. Second, despite the fact that both “English” basically have the same vowels in vowel system, the vowels in British English are pronounced backer than American English. Third, although some words are pronounced the same in British English and in American English, the spellings are a little bit different. For example, the spelling –er in American English becomes –re in British English such as theater versus theatre. In addition, the spelling –or in American English is the same as –our in British English such as flavor versus flavour. Moreover, if we take a look at the usage of the words, we can find that even some words are used differently in American English from British English though many words are used the same. In British, people use the word “underground”; in contrast, American people use “subway” to represent the same transportation. Besides, the word “lift” in British is so called “elevator” in American. In spite of these distinctions, these can be viewed as the different dialects of English.

Appendix 2: Students' Work

1. Student 1—Point-by-Point Organization

I like to watch TV programs. There are two “hot” TV programs for choosing singers. One is called “Super Idol” and the other is “Super Star Avenue”. I love these two programs very much. Super Idol is played in Saturday night, and Super Star Avenue is played in Friday night. The teachers in Super Idol are all singers themselves but the teachers in Super Star Avenue are not. One of them is a person helping competitors with their clothing style. I think the teachers in Super Idol are more professional because they have some good opinions for the singers. However, the singers in Super Star Avenue have more variety in their show. No matter which program, I think they are good and interesting.

2. Student 2—Block Organization

More and more singers from TV programs recently. There are two popular TV programs, which are called “Super Star Avenue” and “Super Idol”. Both of them are the programs for people to compete with each other in singing. The top five competitors will be real singers finally. There are both five teachers in these two programs to give these competitors some suggestions and the hosts are both females. However, the stage in Super Star Avenue is larger than that in. Besides, it seems that more people discuss about Super Star Avenue than Super Idol. In addition, the teachers in Super Star Avenue focus on more about the whole style of a singer, but the teachers in Super Idol want to see singers' singing techniques. Moreover, the teachers are sometimes changed in Super Star Avenue while Super Idol's teachers are almost the same. Because of these two singing TV programs, there are more and more young singers in Taiwan and sometimes they are already popular before they become real singers.

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