

Compare and contrast two judges

Purpose: To compare and contrast two or more judges

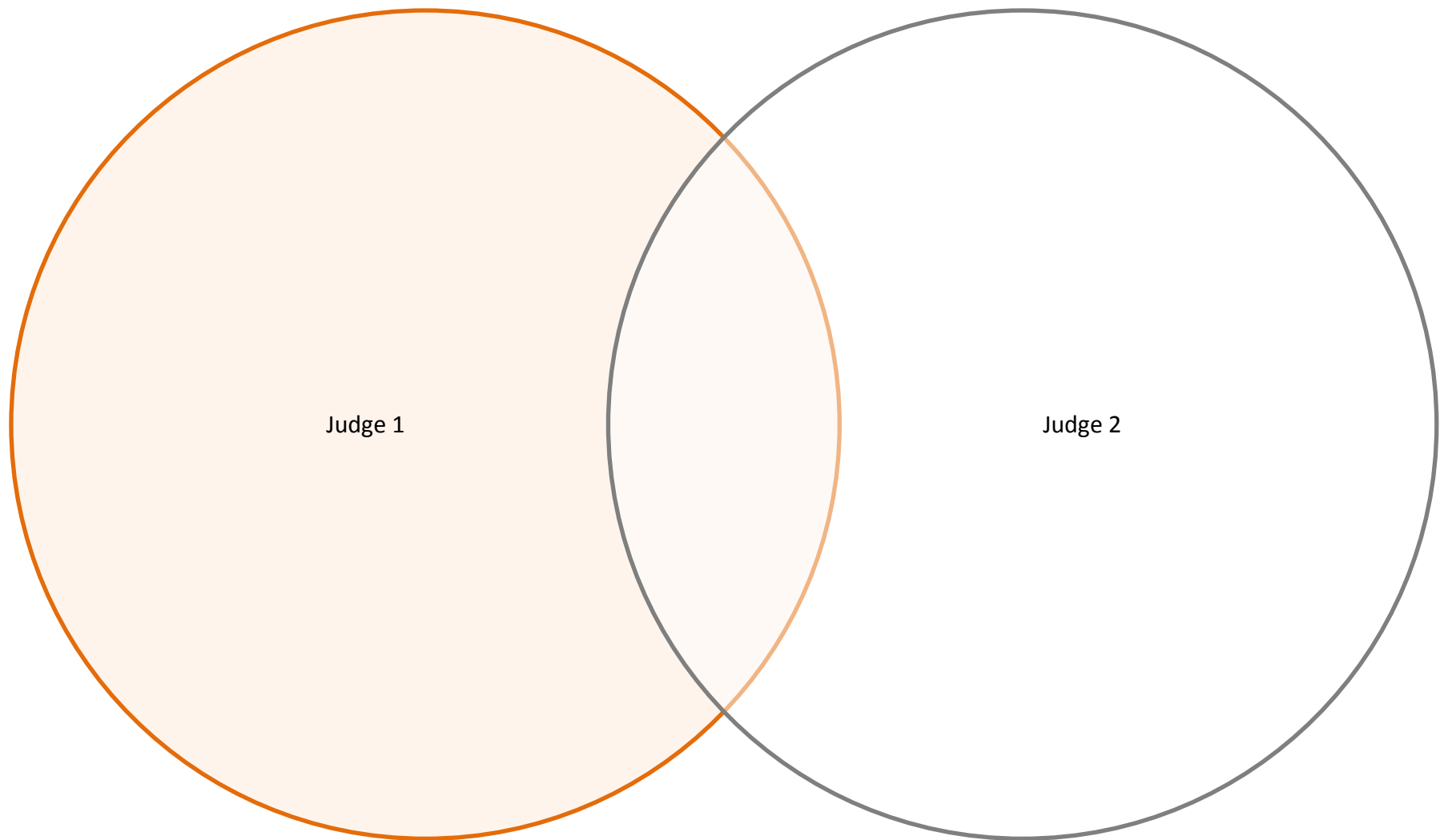
Why use this? Compare and contrast is used to help students distinguish between types of ideas, classify or group like ideas. Marzano, Pickering, and Pollock found that strategies that engage students in comparative thinking had the greatest effect on student achievement, (average gain of 45%) and asking students to identify similarities and differences through comparative analysis leads to improved comprehension by highlighting important details, making abstract ideas more concrete, and reducing the confusion between related concepts. It strengthens students' writing skills by providing a simple structure that helps organize information, develop their ideas with greater accuracy, clarity and precision and increases the ability to think flexibly; think about thinking (metacognition); apply past knowledge to new situations

Procedure for students

1. Read about two or more judges and choose two to compare and contrast. As you gather information you may wish to look for answers to these questions about the judges as you read: Where are they from? How old are they? What is the gender, race, class, etc. of each? What, if anything, are they known for? Do they have any relationship to each other? What are they like? What did/do they do? What do they believe? Why are they interesting? What stands out most about each of them?
2. Choose a graphic organizer to help sort and classify your information. You will need a minimum of three similarities and three differences.

Points/ answers to questions	Judge 1 (name) difference	Similarity	Judge 2 (name) difference

OR



3. Decide which of the points are interesting, important, and relevant enough to be included. Overall, what's more important—the similarities or the differences? Are you going to explain or evaluate?
4. Choose a format: subject by subject (write about all the points about the first judge you are discussing, then move on and make all the points you want to make about the second judge, etc. This is sometimes referred to as block strategy or whole to whole) or point by point or similarities to differences (each in its own paragraph)
5. Choose transition words like first, next, in the same way, both, most important as signals to help your reader know when you are changing topics.