

## What is *Comparing/Contrasting*?

*Comparing/contrasting* is a strategy that helps learners bring order to concepts. When good readers compare and contrast, they are able to analyze the material to discern patterns (Allen, 2004) and thus gain a stronger understanding of what they are reading. This makes the information memorable and leads students to successful learning across the curriculum. Good readers who use the comparing/contrasting strategy have learned to hone their observation and thinking skills and focus on both big ideas and details. Researchers have found that identifying similarities and differences may be the core to all learning.

### **Mix, Match, Make a Decision**

An active learning strategy used to identify new concepts and definitions or to compare two concepts that have previously been taught.

MMMD Process - Source: M. Hickman

1. Share with students a list consisting of examples that illustrate the concepts (positive) and examples that do not (negative).
2. Explain that you will identify one positive examples and one negative and that the students should try to determine what the positive examples have in common (which is the concept that they are trying to attain) and how they differ from the negative examples.
3. As they formulate hypotheses, they may check it by asking about unidentified examples ("Is number two an example of the concept?"), using the yes/ no response of the teacher as a guide for correctness.
4. It is important that those students who believe that they have determined the nature of the concept not blurt it out for two reasons:  
(1) they may be correct and others will not be able to process/attain the concept for themselves
  - They may be correct and others will not be able to process/attain the concept for themselves
  - They may be incorrect, and others will have difficulty getting past the wrong idea stuck in their mind
5. Once the class has grasped the concept or the positive and negative examples have all been identified a definition of the concept is determined and written on the board by consensus (the teacher guides here to produce the desired definition).
6. When the definition is completed and agreed upon, the concept is given its name.

# Mix, Match, Make a Guess Example

Reference to - Automotive Technology

- Gear Box
- Inner Tie Rod
- Idler Arm
- Center Link
- Sector Shaft
- Pittman Arm
- Outer Tie Rod End
- Rack and Pinion
- Bushing
- Bump Stop
- Return Switch
- Pressure Switch
- Flow Control Valve

Definition –

Concept -