

Compare/Contrast Entry

Comparing Nonfiction Texts

Step 1: Select the 2 texts

article v. article

or

article v. video

Our Example

The *Washington Post*

Watch your driving, kids. The parents are watching.

By Matt Zaprisky
Oct. 26, 2008

WASHINGTON — Ken Richardson does not have to ride in his 17-year-old daughter's Ford Escort to know when she takes a turn too fast. The camera system installed in her car will e-mail him about it.

The cameras are among the latest tools in the struggle to reduce teen car crashes, a problem that has been particularly vexing in Maryland. Last year, crashes involving drivers ages 16 to 20 killed 112 people in the state. Such accidents are often caused not by a lack of car control, but by simple driver inexperience. The problem has persisted despite efforts by lawmakers to restrict teen driving privileges.

The camera, mounted on the front windshield, captures footage of what is happening on the road. It records about 20 seconds of that footage only when its sensors are triggered by unusual driving maneuvers such as sudden braking or turning. Sound footage is transmitted back to DriveCam via a cellular network. DriveCam experts review the videos, add tips for the young drivers and post them to a Web site. Parents receive an e-mail alert when the videos are posted.

The camera can capture anything going on in the car, but the company uploads only footage that involves unsafe driving. If an event is captured that is embarrassing to the

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Richardson has tried every possible angle to convince his daughter that the camera is a good idea. He has tried telling her she could earn new driving privileges by avoiding major incidents. He has appealed to her sense of honor, telling her that being a part of the study could save others' lives. And he has tried telling her that when she gets older, she'll want the same kind of device for her kids.

The latest research conducted by DriveCam elsewhere in the country seems to support her dad. DriveCam tracked 25 new drivers using the camera and feedback system for more than a year starting in 2006. The six people who triggered the camera most frequently in the beginning, did so far less frequently later on.

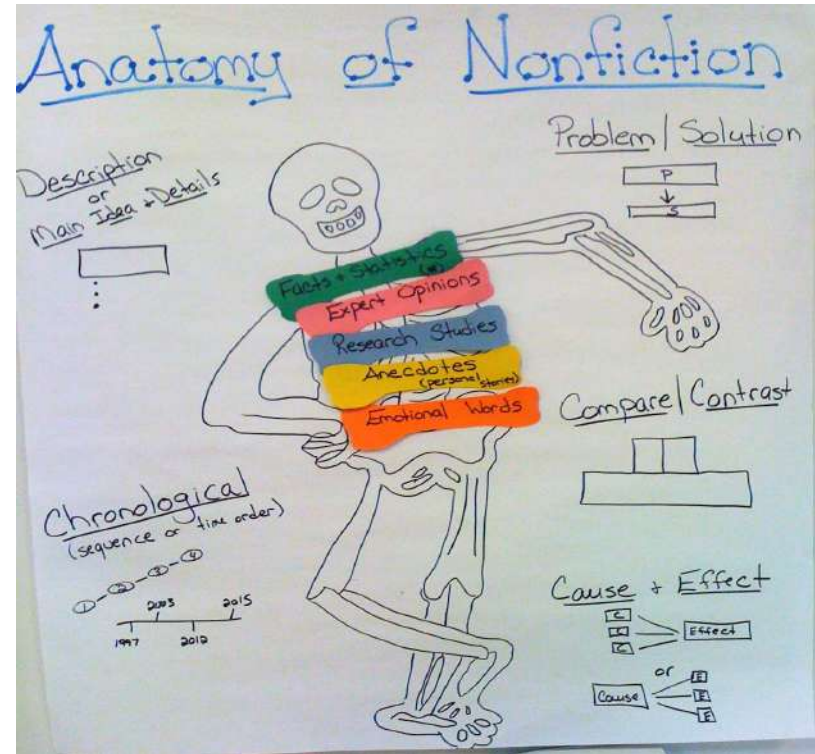
sons ... then we're not going to return it to the family," Carpenter said.

In the month or so since the camera was installed, Richardson's daughter has not been caught on camera doing anything too bad, but the camera has been a sore point. "I feel like I'm being baby-sat, like I'm being watched constantly. It drives me nuts," said Richardson.



Step 2: Determining Criteria (focus on one at a time)

- What kind of evidence does each author present?
- How does each author organize their text?
- Does one text seem stronger or more believable? Ask yourself, “Why?”



Step 3: Write

Lead Sentence: (2 texts, compare/contrast term, criteria)

One way that “Watch Your Driving, Kids” and the Allstate Foundation video are similar is the way the author structures each text.

Evidence from Text #1

One way that “Watch Your Driving, Kids” and the Allstate Foundation video are similar is the way the author structures each text. **In the second paragraph of “Watch Your Driving Kids,” the author gives statistics about how many deaths are caused by teen car crashes in Maryland. Then later in the article, the author presents DriveCam as a possible solution to this problem.**

Evidence from Text #2

One way that “Watch Your Driving, Kids” and the Allstate Foundation video are similar is the way the author structures each text. In the second paragraph of “Watch Your Driving Kids,” the author gives statistics about how many deaths are caused by teen car crashes in Maryland. Then later in the article, the author presents DriveCam as a possible solution to this problem. **In the Allstate Foundation video, the experts from Allstate also give statistics about the dangers of teen driving, and then say that they want to help give teens that extra one-second advantage that may save their lives.**

Compare/Contrast Sentence

One way that “Watch Your Driving, Kids” and the Allstate Foundation video are similar is the way the author structures each text. In the second paragraph of “Watch Your Driving Kids,” the author gives statistics about how many deaths are caused by teen car crashes in Maryland. Then later in the article, the author presents DriveCam as a possible solution to this problem. In the Allstate Foundation video, the experts from Allstate also give statistics about the dangers of teen driving, and then say that they want to help give teens that extra one-second advantage that may save their lives. **Both texts begin by explaining a problem, and then they provide a solution.**

Explanation

Ask yourself:

1. Why would the authors use this type of evidence?
2. What does each author stand to gain?
 - a. Is he selling something?
 - b. Who is benefiting from this information?
3. Are the authors presenting both sides of the issue?

Explanation

One way that “Watch Your Driving, Kids” and the Allstate Foundation video are similar is the way the author structures each text. In the second paragraph of “Watch Your Driving Kids,” the author gives statistics about how many deaths are caused by teen car crashes in Maryland. Then later in the article, the author presents DriveCam as a possible solution to this problem. In the Allstate Foundation video, the experts from Allstate also give statistics about the dangers of teen driving, and then say that they want to help give teens that extra one-second advantage that may save their lives. Both texts begin by explaining a problem, and then they provide a solution. **This shows how authors can use statistics to get the audience to care about the solutions they want to present.**