

Comparing and contrasting is one of the most powerful tasks for building cultural understanding and developing communicative skills. This group project is designed to work with **any level, any theme, and any language**, making it ideal for Spanish, French, or world language teachers looking for adaptable materials.

Below you'll find an overview of how to use the resource, tips for differentiation, project instructions, sample topics, checklists, and a grading rubric — all ready to use in your classroom.

How to Use These Materials

These materials are flexible and adaptable for students from beginner to advanced levels. The level of difficulty will depend on the sources you select and your learners' proficiency.

Two Versions Suggested

- Version 1: Directions in English — for lower levels or introducing the task.
- Version 2: Directions entirely in the target language — for intermediate and advanced learners.

Using the Sources

- Many activities include linked resources such as readings, videos, and infographics.
- Preview all materials to ensure they are age- and level-appropriate.
- The sources may include authentic content or materials created by native speakers for learners.
- You can substitute or add your own sources to better match your curriculum.

Examples of Possible Sources:

- A reading or video from your textbook
- An infographic or short video from a trusted platform
- Real-world items such as menus, ads, schedules, or blog posts

Tips for Adapting Activities

- Some resources may be more suitable for upper levels — adjust as needed.

- For video-based materials, you can:
 - Use transcripts to create comprehension questions.
 - Have students take notes using a printable or digital organizer.
 - Turn notes into a group project or visual presentation.

Classroom Implementation

These activities can be completed in:

- Half a class period
- A full block

Plan time for:

1. Introducing the assignment
2. Exploring and understanding sources
3. Taking notes and completing organizers
4. Preparing and presenting visuals

Group projects work especially well for lower levels:

- Students collaborate to understand the material.
- They share and organize their ideas.
- They create posters or slides to support their presentations.

Customization & Extensions

When preparing to use these materials:

- Choose or adapt the template that fits your class.
- Decide which version of the directions (English or target language) you'll use.
- Make a copy of the organizer and add your own sources or topics.

You can adapt this activity to any theme, such as:

- Clothing
- Food
- Celebrations
- School life
- Housing

- Community
- Hobbies or free time

This project encourages cultural comparison and interpretive understanding. It's excellent pre-AP practice for cultural comparison or presentation tasks.

Compare and Contrast Project Instructions

Goal:

Compare two things, cultures, communities, or places. Use the graphic organizer to write down your ideas. You may use information from class discussions, readings, videos, or personal experience.

Steps

1. Introduction

Say what you are going to compare.

Example (in English): "Today I will talk about _____ and _____."

2. Definition

Briefly describe the two items, cultures, or places you are comparing.

3. Organization

Use a chart or Venn diagram to sort your similarities and differences.

Useful Comparison Vocabulary (translate for your class):

- _____ has...
- _____ is celebrated in...
- They are both...
- Both have...
- Both are found in...
- However...
- On the other hand...
- Although...

4. Bullet Points

Turn your ideas into 10 short, clear bullet points showing what you learned or noticed.

5. Conclusion

End with a strong closing statement.

Example: “These two cultures have many differences, but they also share important similarities.”

6. Presentation

Share your comparison with the class in one of these ways:

- A poster or large paper visual
- A Google Slides or PowerPoint presentation
- An audio recording using a tool like [Vocaroo](#)
- A recorded slide show with voiceover
- A live presentation

Sample Topics for Comparison

You can use these or choose your own:

Education

- Schools in two countries
- School schedules
- School lunches

Holidays and Celebrations

- Holidays in two countries
- Christmas traditions
- Halloween and Day of the Dead
- Independence Day celebrations
- New Year’s customs

Food and Eating Habits

- Traditional foods in two cultures
- Fast food in different countries
- Mealtime routines or dining customs

Homes and Housing

- Home styles or living spaces in two countries
- Rural vs. urban living
- How families use their living spaces

Leisure and Free Time

- Typical weekend activities
- Sports or hobbies across cultures

Checklist

- Introduction included
- Clear definitions of both topics
- Completed comparison chart or organizer
- Used comparison vocabulary
- At least 10 bullet points
- Neat, legible writing or design
- Strong conclusion
- Final project submitted or presented

Grading Rubric (1-5 Scale)

Category	5 – Excellent	4 – Good	3 – Satisfactory	2 – Needs Improvement	1 – Incomplete
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Content	Includes 10+ comparison points using information from multiple sources	8-9 comparison points with some sources	Some comparison points but limited depth	Few points or little effort	Missing or incomplete
Vocabulary / Language	Uses comparison language clearly and correctly	Minor errors that don't affect understanding	Some errors; meaning sometimes unclear	Frequent language errors	Incorrect or missing vocabulary
Clarity & Presentation	Clear, organized, visually appealing	Mostly clear and organized	Understandable but uneven presentation	Disorganized or hard to follow	Illegible or incomplete

Canva Templates:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAG4GI_HsTk/RmQHD4Id_vRqzhK7J_EBjA/view?utm_content=DAG4GI_HsTk&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink&mode=preview

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