

Comprehension

Genre

A **Nonfiction Article** in a newspaper or magazine tells a true story.

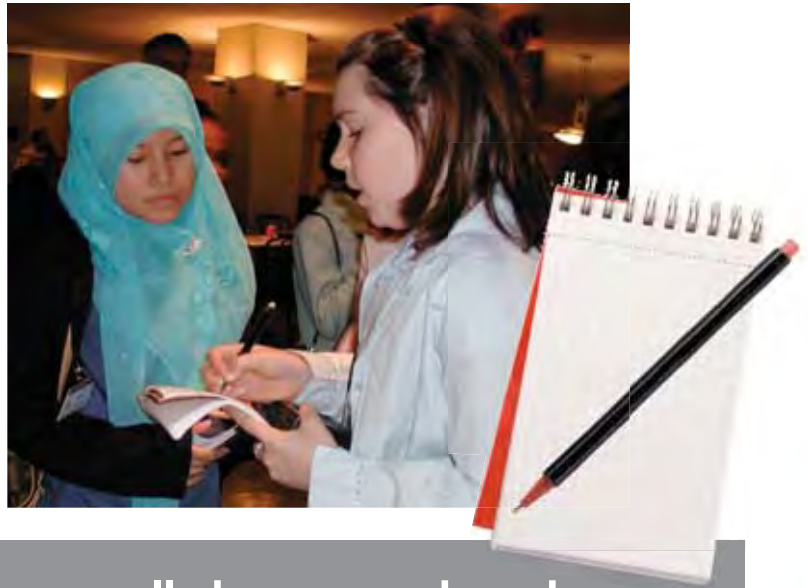


Summarize

Compare and Contrast

When you look for similarities, you compare two or more things or ideas. When you look for differences, you contrast two or more things or ideas.

★ KID ★ REPORTERS AT WORK



How do kid reporters tell the story when the news is about improving the lives of children?

Each year, the news magazine *Time For Kids* selects several young people to serve as TFK kid reporters. These **enterprising** kids are not professional journalists, but like adult reporters, they still have to show they are qualified for the job. Three skills they must have are **persistence** in tracking down a story, good interviewing skills, and the ability to write clearly about complicated topics.

Here's a behind-the-scenes look at two TFK reporters and two of the stories they covered for the magazine. The reporters don't have much in common, except that they are both determined to do a good job as reporters covering an interesting story. The stories seem quite different at first, too. However, they have some strong similarities.

REPORTER: TERRENCE CHEROMCKA

STORY: **A World Conference
Just for Kids**

Terrence, from Pennsylvania, plays softball, basketball, and field hockey. She loves to read and write. She's also very interested in travel, and has visited France and Thailand. In 2002, however, she had the chance to meet people from all over the world without traveling very far at all. That year Terrence got an assignment from TFK to go to New York City to cover the opening ceremonies of the United Nations Special Session on Children.

The event was a follow-up to a conference held at the U.N. in 1990 to promote the rights of children. World leaders and 375 young people met to discuss what had been accomplished since 1990 and how much more needed to be done. Issues with the highest priority were health care, education,

and basic rights for the children of the world. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan addressed the opening session. Speaking directly to the young people in attendance, he said, "Your voices will be heard, I promise you."

For her story, Terrence interviewed kids from several different countries about what they hoped the conference would accomplish. "We hope to get kids closer to the government and making decisions," said Bala Subrayanya of India.

Terrence also reported on her tour of the United Nations building. Her tour ended with an exhibit showing the devastating effects of war. She saw pictures of child soldiers fighting in war-torn countries. She wrote: "It really reminded me of why the U.N. is working so hard to help improve children's lives and why its mission is so important."



In the large room where the United Nations General Assembly meets, young people from many countries perform at the opening ceremonies of the Special Session. Others sit in the U.N. delegates' seats.

REPORTER: MARTIN JACOBS

STORY: **Kid Scientist Starts Kids' Charity**



Martin, who lives in New York, is a computer buff, plays the piano, and wants to be an airline pilot when he grows up. When he got the assignment to interview Andrew Hsu, he expected to be talking about science. After all, Andrew had just become the youngest winner of the Washington State Science and Engineering Fair. The 11-year-old scientist won the grand prize for identifying a particular gene that plays an important role in keeping the human body healthy.

Martin soon discovered that being a science whiz is just one of Andrew's accomplishments. He's also an athlete who competes in swimming. But the main thing Andrew wanted to tell Martin about was the World Children Organization (WCO). Andrew founded this organization along with his brother Patrick. The brothers started this **venture** in order to help improve the lives of children. In that way its mission is similar to that of the U.N. Special Session on Children. The U.N. special session **identified** three high-priority issues. In contrast, WCO focuses on a single issue for now.

Andrew and Patrick believe that improving education is the best way they can make a positive difference for children. They know that, unlike the United States, there are places where a free education isn't available to all kids.

Andrew Hsu, 11, receives the grand prize award at the 2003 Washington State Science and Engineering Fair.



To help meet that need, Andrew and Patrick had the idea of producing videos about science, math, and languages for children in countries where there aren't enough qualified teachers. "Without education," Andrew said, "the problems of poverty, hunger, child labor, and other abuses of children's rights will never end."

STORY: **Different Reporters,
Different Stories,
a Common Theme**

Terrence and Martin both wrote about kids and organizations involved in helping children. In Terrence's story, the organization—the United Nations—is a large one that was founded by the nations of the world. The kids involved came from many different countries. The size and political power of the U.N. enables it to work on several high-priority issues at once. In Martin's story, the organization is a small one—the World Children Organization—founded by two kids. For now, the WCO focuses on education as its single issue.

Clearly, all of these kids—at the U.N. Special Session, Andrew and Patrick at WCO, and reporters Terrence and Martin—share a commitment to making the world a better place for everyone, especially children.



At age 11, Andrew was already a "working" scientist.

Think and Compare

1. What skills do Terrence and Martin need to be good reporters?
2. If you were a kid reporter, what topic would you like to investigate?
3. If you could choose one way to improve the lives of the children of the world, what would it be?
4. What do Gidget Schultz, Jhordan Logan, the attendees at the U.N. Special Session, and Andrew and Patrick Hsu have in common? How are their projects different?



Child Labor in the U.S.A.



Test Strategy

Think and Search

Read on to find the answer.
Look for information in
more than one place.

Throughout its history, the United States has counted on kids to lend a hand on farms and in factories. In the 1800s, children as young as 7 worked in textile mills for 12 hours a day. By the end of the nineteenth century, almost 2 million kids performed hazardous jobs in mills, mines, and factories.

Many concerned citizens worked to change this. Photographer Lewis Hine, who took these pictures of young cotton mill workers, was one of them. In 1938, a U.S. law was passed that limits work hours for kids. The law also requires safe conditions. The law still exists, but some people break it. An estimated 800,000 children work illegally in the U.S. today. Most of them work on farms and jobs related to farming. Some work with heavy machinery, poisonous chemicals, or under other conditions that could harm them.



These photos of young boys working in U.S. cotton mills were taken by Lewis Hine around 1911.

Directions: Answer the questions.

1. What happened before the 1938 child labor law was passed?

- A Children were not allowed to work in factories.
- B Children were not required to go to school.
- C Children worked long hours at unsafe jobs.
- D Children were prevented from working on farms.

2. This selection is MOSTLY about

- A farming jobs.
- B protecting children who work.
- C photographer Lewis Hine.
- D finding the right job.

3. What has NOT changed since the 1800s?

- A Kids still work in mines and factories.
- B Kids still work in cotton mills.
- C Lewis Hine is still photographing children.
- D Kids still work at dangerous jobs.

4. Why are some jobs harmful to children?

5. Laws in the United States require children to attend school. Do you think the United States still needs those laws? Explain your answer.

Tip

Look for
information
in more than
one place.



Write to a Prompt

Gidget Schultz, Jhordan Logan, and Andrew and Patrick Hsu started their own charitable organizations. As reporters, Terrence Cheromcka and Martin Jacobs conducted interviews. Imagine you are starting your own magazine and you're trying to interview a famous person. Persuade that person that he or she should agree to be interviewed for your magazine.



I started my writing by stating facts that describe the topic.

January 17, 2008

Dear Mr. President,

I'm starting a new magazine for kids. It's called Kids Today. The magazine talks about everything that happens in a kid's life: school, friends, sports, music, and more.

In each issue, we talk to a famous person about what it was like for him or her as a kid. Every kid knows what you do, but we don't know what your childhood was like. I know you're very busy, but this would be a good thing for you to do.

Sincerely,
Rebecca H.

Writing Prompt

In “Tips for Planning a Service Project” you read about things you can do to get a project started. One tip is “Get others involved.” Imagine you are starting your own service project. Choose one person whose help would be very important to you in getting your project started. Write a letter to persuade that person to help you. Provide reasons why he or she should get involved. State your opinion and support it with convincing reasons.



Writer's Checklist

- Ask yourself, who is my audience?
- Think about your purpose for writing.
- Choose the correct form for your writing.
- Use reasons to support your opinion.
- Be sure your ideas are logical and organized.
- Use your best spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

