Introduction to Comparison Reasoning

What is comparison reasoning?

Analyzing how things are alike or different

OR

Analyzing how things are better or worse
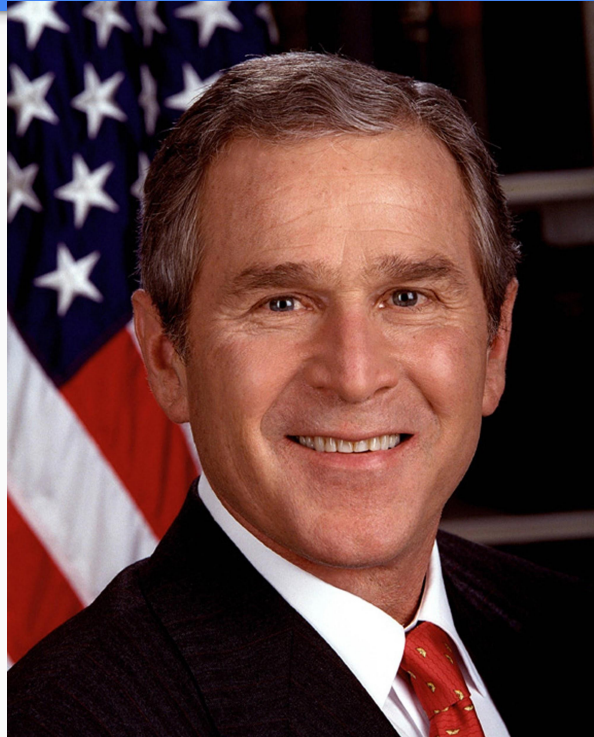
Simple ID of comparison reasoning

KEY WORDS: MOST comparison arguments contain an explicit key word

Key words - could be explicit → compared to…

- Often is an -er word followed by a word such as than → is better than; faster than; ...
- Can be a word such as more, less, similar, different, like...

Historians make comparisons a lot: Who was the better president?

Terminology

The two things being compared are called subjects

The points of comparison are called issues

The details are called descriptors

Who was the better president?

What/who are the SUBJECTS in the example?

What would be 3 reasonable ISSUES that you could search for evidence/details (DESCRIPTORS) about?

SIMPLE EXAMPLE

Middle school was way more strict than high school. In Middle School we had a strict dress code, we couldn't check our phones ever during the day, and there was no talking in the halls. At the High School, we can dress how we want, we can use our phones at break & lunch, and we can talk in the halls.

Break down the argument

Key words:

Subjects:

Issues:

Descriptors:

Break down the argument

Subjects: middle school and high school

Issues: talking in halls, dress code, cell phones

Descriptors: information or evidence about the issues for each subject. ****NOTE: in this example, the descriptors are VERY weak(Not OK!)

Diagram the argument

Subjects → Issues ↓	Middle School	High School
Dress Code	Strict	Not strict
Cell phones	Not allowed at all	Allowed sometimes
Talking in halls	Not allowed	Allowed

What is the comparison statement of the author? Pick one:

A. I hate how strict Middle School was

B. Middle School is more strict than High School

C. Cell phones should not be allowed in school

D. High school allows students to act like adults

Comparison statement: middle school is more strict than high school

Descriptors: - the specific details/evidence that MAKE your comparison argument work (or not work.)

- The more detailed that the descriptors are, the stronger (usually more credible) a comparison argument is