

Teacher-Modeled Sample  
Compare/Contrast Essay Organized by  
“Subject-by-Subject”

**Dolphins and Sharks**

Like dolphins, sharks are amazing animals. Dolphins use echolocation, which is like radar. They make clicking sounds in the water that bounce off nearby objects in order to determine how far away objects are. Sharks, too, are quite fascinating. They have existed since before the dinosaurs and have over 3,000 teeth in five rows.

Dolphins live in warm and cold oceans all over the world. Like chimpanzees or dogs, dolphins are very intelligent mammals. Because they are mammals, they are warm-blooded, have bones, nurse their young, sleep and breathe air. They have fins and come in many shapes and sizes. Dolphins mostly eat fish and squid, but they don't chew them. They gulp them whole! Large dolphins, called Killer Whales, sometimes eat sharks and other dolphins.

Similar to dolphins, sharks live in the world's oceans, have fins, and come in different shapes and sizes. Sharks also gulp their food, mostly fish, squid and other marine animals. Contrary to what many people think, sharks don't attack humans often—only when they mistake people for seals and sea lions. Unlike dolphins, sharks are cold-blooded, boneless fish. In contrast to very clever dolphins, sharks are only about as smart as birds or rats. Although sharks don't sleep, they do have active and inactive periods.

Dolphins are smart, playful mammals. On the other hand, sharks are exciting fish with a lot of frightening teeth. Although both animals are amazing, I'd rather meet a dolphin in the ocean than a shark!

Teacher-Modeled Sample  
Compare/Contrast Essay Organized by  
“**Similarities and Differences**”

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Like dolphins, sharks are amazing animals. Dolphins use echolocation, which is like radar. They make clicking sounds in the water that bounce off nearby objects in order to determine how far away objects are. Sharks, too, are quite fascinating. They have existed since before the dinosaurs and have over 3,000 teeth in five rows.

Dolphins and sharks are similar in many ways. Both live in warm and cold oceans all over the world. They have fins, come in many sizes and colors, and both eat fish and squid. Neither animal chews its food—they gulp it whole! In fact, large dolphins (called killer whales) even eat other dolphins and sharks.

Dolphins and sharks are also very different. Dolphins are as clever as chimpanzees or dogs; however, sharks are only about as smart as birds or rats. Like most mammals, dolphins are warm-blooded, have bones, nurse their young, sleep, and breathe air. Unlike dolphins, sharks are cold-blooded, boneless fish. Although sharks don’t sleep like dolphins do, they have active and inactive periods. Contrary to what many people think, sharks don’t often attack humans. When they do, it’s because they mistake us for their favorite food—seals, rays and sea lions.

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Teacher-Modeled Sample  
Compare/Contrast Essay Organized by  
“Feature-by-Feature”

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*[Feature 1: habitat & appearance]*

Dolphins and sharks both live in warm and cold oceans all over the world. Both animals have fins and come in many shapes and sizes. Similar to humans, dolphins are warm-blooded mammals with bones. They also nurse their young, sleep and breathe air. In contrast, sharks are cold-blooded fish that have no bones.

*[Feature 2: intelligence & behavior]*

Dolphins are just as clever as chimpanzees or dogs. Sharks, on the other hand, are only about as intelligent as birds or rats. Unlike sharks, dolphins sleep. Sharks do, however, have active and inactive periods during the day.

*[Feature 3: food]*

Although both savor the taste of fish and squid, neither dolphins nor sharks chew them. They both gulp their food whole! Large dolphins, called killer whales, will sometimes eat other dolphins and sharks. Dolphins are usually friendly to humans. Contrary to what many people think, sharks don't attack humans often. When they do, it's because they mistake us for their favorite food—seals, rays and sea lions.

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Teacher-Modeled Sample  
Compare/Contrast Essay Organized by  
“**Compare/Contrast/Connect**”

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Like dolphins, sharks are amazing animals. Dolphins use echolocation, which is like radar. They make clicking sounds in the water that bounce off nearby objects in order to determine how far away objects are. Sharks, too, are quite fascinating. They have existed since before the dinosaurs and have over 3,000 teeth in five rows.

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Similar to dolphins, sharks live in the world's oceans, have fins, and come in different shapes and sizes. Sharks also gulp their food, mostly fish, squid and other marine animals. Contrary to what many people think, sharks don't attack humans often—only when they mistake people for seals and sea lions. Unlike dolphins, sharks are cold-blooded, boneless fish. In contrast to very clever dolphins, sharks are only about as smart as birds or rats. Although sharks don't sleep, they do have active and inactive periods.

Both of these extraordinary animals are also under threat due to overfishing for food and sport fishing. In both cases, this has a direct result on the marine ecosystem. For example, the domino effect of a decreased number of sharks in the ocean means that the scallop population is nearly extinct. Fewer sharks means more rays in the ocean; the increased number of rays results in too few scallops, the preferred food source for rays.

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