



Comparing and Contrasting

Students can get bogged down with details and need help sorting out criteria for making informed observations. These Tip Sheets should help students visualize their thinking and learning as they progress through the comparing and contrasting process. The steps for comparing and contrasting are outlined in basic steps and questions. The Tip Sheets then map students' thinking patterns to help them "see" their thinking as they work through the steps of comparing and contrasting based on specific criteria. Whether students will be using a checklist or a matrix, the graphic organizers help students record and organize thoughts as they make comparisons and contrasts by using mental processes that sort relevant and important relationships and qualitative and quantitative data based on their experiences with the content.

This thinking skill includes these resources:

Comparing and Contrasting, Text Outline
Comparing and Contrasting, Student Tip Sheet
Comparing and Contrasting Using a Matrix, Graphic Organizer
Comparing and Contrasting Using a Venn Diagram, Graphic Organizer

Comparing and Contrasting

Tip Sheet

1. What do I want to compare and contrast?

- Consumer products on the basis of features, performance, durability, and cost?
- Personal choices and tradeoffs?
- Sources of information for the same topic?
- Patterns of information?

2. What are my criteria or rules for each category? What do I want to learn?

- Relevant and irrelevant?
- Important and unimportant?
- Qualitative (value) or quantitative (numbers) traits?
- Critical and secondary?

3. As I compare and contrast, what issues or obstacles do I find?

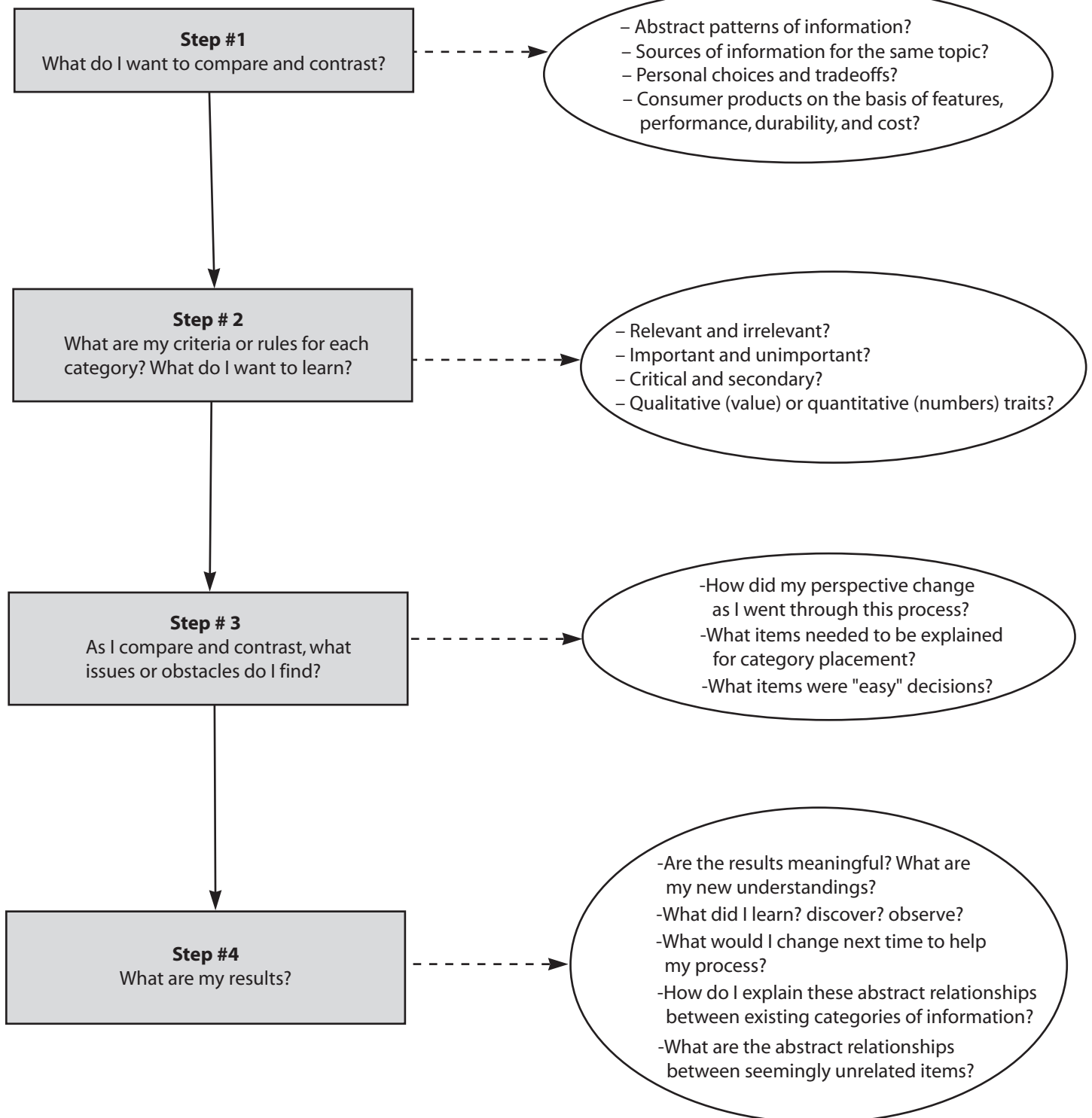
- What items were "easy" decisions?
- What items needed to be explained for category placement?
- How did my perspective change as I went through this process?

4. What are my results?

- What did I learn? discover? observe?
- What are the abstract relationships between seemingly unrelated items?
- How do I explain these abstract relationships between existing categories of information?
- Are the results meaningful? What are my new understandings?
- What would I change next time to help my process?
- How will I use what I have learned?

Comparing and Contrasting

Using a Matrix or Venn Diagram



I'm ready to begin again!



Comparing and Contrasting Using a Matrix

 Graphic Organizer

NAME _____

DATE _____

DIRECTIONS: Using the Tip Sheet for Comparing and Contrasting, complete the matrix below to evaluate your items.

Items for Comparison

Totals

Rules, Criteria, Characteristics

Similarities

Differences

S

D

S

D

S

D

S

D

S

D



Comparing and Contrasting Using a Venn Diagram

 Graphic Organizer

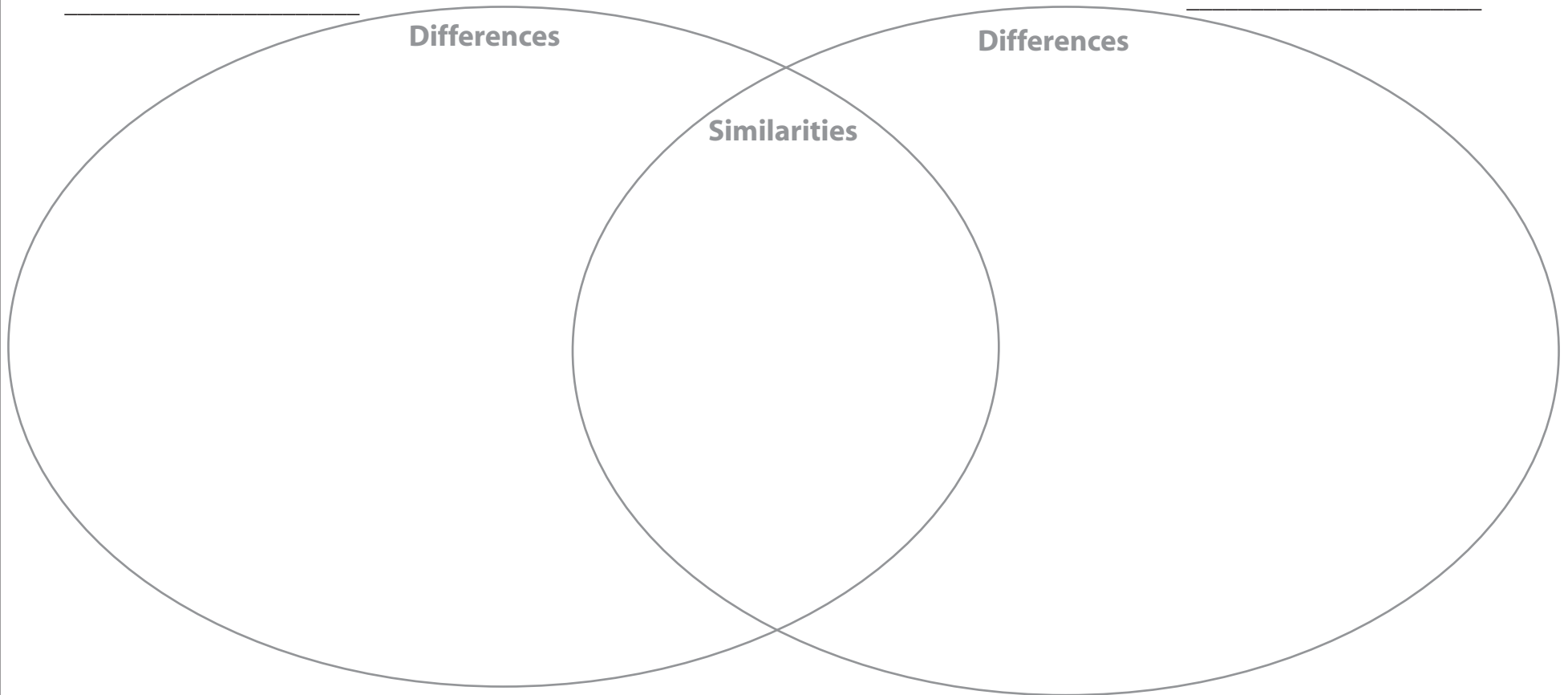
NAME _____ DATE _____

DIRECTIONS: Using the Tip Sheet for Comparing and Contrasting, complete the Venn diagram below to evaluate your items.

Rules, Criteria, Characteristics: _____

Item for Comparison:

Item for Comparison:



Results, Conclusions, New Understandings: