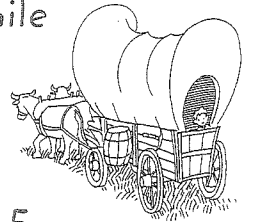


## Compare and Contrast through Journal Writing

A journal can be another form of expository writing. It is one way to keep a daily record of thoughts, feelings, ideas, and events. This lends itself well to showing similarities and differences. For example, a journal could show how different your life would have been at another time in history, but would also point out some basic similarities. This could be a fun approach to studying the past. The journal entries below compare and contrast a day in the life of a frontier child and a modern-day child.

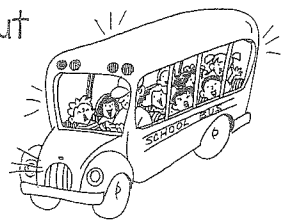
September 22, 1860

At dawn, my brother and I rolled up our bedclothes and climbed out of our covered wagon to gather wood for a fire. I milked the cow for fresh milk to put on our porridge. Then, while Mom cooked over the campfire, I fed the horses. It was a chilly fall day, so we stayed wrapped in blankets while eating breakfast. Afterwards, Dad and my brother hitched the horses to the wagon so we could continue our trip West. I stayed with Mom to help pack. We were still many days away from our destination. Even though we were tired at the end of the day, we couldn't wait to sit down to play with our dog, then climb under the covers to read.



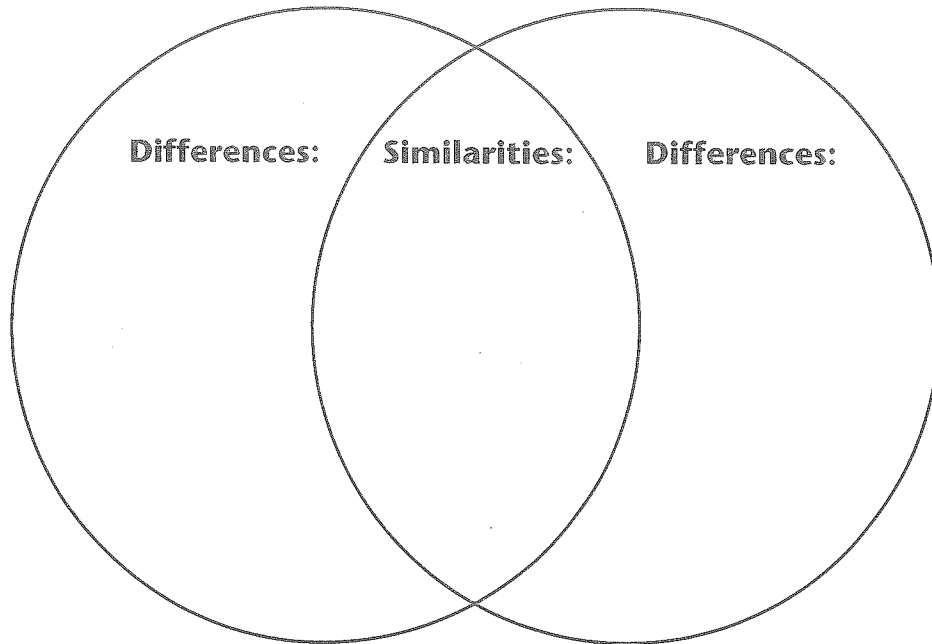
September 22, 2003

My brother and I had to get up early this morning to do our chores. Each day, I take out the trash, and my brother feeds the dog. Dad heated up some yummy muffins in the microwave, and put strawberries on our cereal for breakfast. We met our friends at the bus just in time to hop on. It was a chilly fall morning, but luckily the bus was heated. We got to school just in time for homeroom. After a busy day at school, I went to soccer practice and my brother went to karate. I called Mom on my cell phone to say hi, since I knew she'd be working late. Even though we were tired when we got home, we couldn't wait to play with our dog and computer games.



# Reading Response

1. In the chart below, list what is *similar* and what is *different* about the journal writers' lives.



2. List three words that are clearly from the present day.

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## Practice

Now write brief summaries of the two journals.

September 22, 1860:

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