

COMPARE

The following is an example in Manufacturing Engineering. The student has achieved “relational understanding” by comparing different things.

Compare	Show how things are alike or not alike
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The Question

Compare the different kinds of tools used for the design of a mouse cage.



What students commonly do

- They **list separately** the special characteristics of the tools **without comparing** them.



An example of good work

This answer shows whether the tools are the same or how they are different from each other.

“**For hygiene reason**, it is more suitable to use ‘nylon bag’ and ‘stick’ than ‘trap’. ‘Nylon bag’ and ‘stick’ catch mice alive and restrict their movement whereas ‘trap’ wounds a mouse whose blood would contaminate the trap & the environment around.

Showing that two of the tools are alike in the hygienic aspect but are different from ‘trap’

As for reliability, ‘nylon bag’ and ‘trap’ are considered more reliable than “stick” which may not be strong enough to hold a mouse [...]

Showing that two of the tools are alike in reliability but are different from ‘stick’

Among the 3 tools being compared, ‘nylon bag’ appears to be the most appealing. The only drawback for ‘nylon bag’ is that there is a need to handle the caged living mouse. However, the same handling procedures are required for the mice kept in the other 2 tools as well [...]

Showing that all the tools are alike in the disposal procedures of mice