

PURPOSE: The strategy activates students' prior knowledge of the topic and helps students think about big ideas prior to reading a text. Students respond to two sides of an issue. Select an idea related to the topic that they know (see examples below).

Strategy 2 Instructions for Using Contrast Chart

1. **Select idea:** Find something that the student knows about and is related to an important concept in the story. For example, if reading about someone going to a new school, ask the students to provide the advantages and disadvantages of attending a new school (see example below).
 - Other ideas could include Good Day and Bad Day; Having a Sibling and Being an Only Child; Giving a Gift and Receiving a Gift.
2. Fill out both columns with student's answers.
3. Next, explain that the story/text is about, for example, this boy is going to a new school.
4. **After reading**, student compares what was learned from the story with the chart.

Sample: CONTRAST CHART	
TITLE of STORY: <i>GOING TO A NEW SCHOOL</i>	
Advantages	Disadvantages
1. New friends 2. New teacher 3. Fresh start	1. Leaving old friends. 2. Teachers may not help me catch up to the other students. 3. Won't know my way around.

CONTRAST CHART	
TITLE of STORY:	