

A Wrinkle in Time Compare and Contrast Lesson

Standard Addressed

ELA.6.RL.9: Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.

Focus of Lesson

The focus of this lesson is to identify the characteristics and conflicts within a democratic society versus an autocratic society, and relate these terms to societies within *A Wrinkle in Time*.

At the end of this lesson students will understand that:

- a. There may be limitations to freedom regardless of the society one may live in,
- b. Society's structure impacts the choices people may make regardless of an opposing force, and
- c. Conflict of ideas exists in both a "free" and "conformed" society.

Essential Question

What does the meaning of freedom look like within a democratic and autocratic society?

Introduction/Hook

1. Discuss with students that this lesson is an extension activity for *A Wrinkle in Time*.
2. Divide the class into two groups (democracy and autocracy).
3. In their writing journals, students will independently reflect on the following questions:
 - Reflect on what freedoms and rights you have by living in a democratic society.
 - How would you feel if those freedoms and rights were taken away from you?

Work Period

4. Distribute the **Democracy and Autocracy Readings**, along with the criteria organizer to the appropriate groups.
5. Independently, each student will read his/her assigned piece and complete the **Criteria Organizer**, as well as highlight key terms, and annotate the text identifying the following terms: *freedoms, rights, structure, and limitations*. (5-10 min)
6. Pair students with like assignments to discuss **Criteria Organizer**. (5-10min)
7. Pair students with a student who completed the opposite reading (i.e., a democracy reader pairs with an autocracy reader). Each student will teach his/her partner what s/he learned.

8. Distribute **Comparison Organizer**. Groups of four – composed of two students who read the autocracy reading, and two that read the democracy reading – will work together to complete this organizer.
9. Come back together as a class. Have groups share **general statements** about democratic and autocratic societies and the gains or limitations of freedom, rights, and external/internal conflict of members. Record class responses on poster board.

Closing/Ticket out the Door

1. Students will answer the following questions. Use their answers as an assessment of their progress.
 - How may there be limitations to freedom regardless of society's government structure? List two responses.
 - How does societal structure impact the choices people make?
 - In *A Wrinkle in Time*, what two forces exhibit external conflict? Explain the conflict. Also, what two forces exhibit internal conflict? Explain the conflict.