This document is designed to assist North Carolina educators in effective instruction of the new Common Core State and/or North Carolina Essential Standards (Standard Course of Study) in order to increase student achievement. NCDPI staff are continually updating and improving instructional tools to better serve teachers. These Graphic Organizers are in draft form and are undergoing review for feedback.

**Graphic Organizers SAMPLES**

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**What is the purpose of this tool?**
These visual representations assist the student in organizing abstract “big picture” information that is new, overwhelming or misunderstood. Research supports the utilization of graphic organizers as a contributing factor in improving student performance. The examples are to model varied organizers and their use in provoking student engagement, organization, and understanding, thus equipping the teacher with the knowledge to develop and use such tools effectively with the new standards. By providing these examples, DPI is creating a foundation for teachers to shift the focus from merely classroom instruction, but also on student learning.

**What is in the tool?** The instructional tool uses straightforward (clear) models/examples that can be used in the classroom in alignment with the new standards. The tool speaks directly to teachers and holds high expectations for teachers’ ability to understand the use of the tool as a mechanism for differentiating instruction.

**How do I send Feedback?**
We intend the explanations and examples in this document to be helpful and specific. That said, we believe that as this document is used, teachers and educators will find ways in which the tool can be improved and made even more useful. Please send feedback to us at feedback@dpi.nc.gov and we will use your input to refine our instructional tool. Thank You!

**Where are the new Common Core State and North Carolina Essential Standards?**
All standards are located at http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/
Comparing and Contrasting Graphic Organizer

“Alike and Different”

Purpose:

This graphic organizer provides a Venn diagram for comparing and contrasting the adventures and experiences of characters in two stories or comparing and contrasting two or more versions of the same story. This can also be used to identify similarities and differences between two informational texts on the same topic.

Sample/description:

Teachers and students use this graphic organizer to record the similarities and differences between two stories or informational texts by listing and/or drawing the differences on either side of the overlapping circles and the similarities inside the space where they overlap.

Example: The teacher reads aloud two versions of The Three Little Pigs several times. Then, the teacher guides student discussion about how the stories were alike and how they were different. The teacher records the students’ ideas on an enlarged version of the Venn diagram. Once the teacher models this with several stories, students complete a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting two versions of a different story independently or with a partner.

Connection to Standards:

RL .9 and RI.9

Resources:

None

Levels:

This graphic organizer is appropriate for K, 1st, and 2nd grades. With kindergarteners, a large Venn diagram could be drawn on chart paper and completed by dictating students’ input in a whole group or small group instructional format. With first and second graders, the teacher models the use of the graphic organizer before students complete it independently.
Alike and Different

Title: ____________________________________________  Title: ____________________________________________

Author: _________________________________________  Author: _________________________________________