Idea Detectives

Sort sentences by how they organize ideas.

C.7.2.b "Introduce a topic clearly; organize ideas, concepts and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast and cause/effect; include formatting, graphics and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPARISON

A comparison shows how two things are alike or different. Look for information about both things.

A violin makes sound with strings, while a flute makes sound with moving air.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Cause and effect shows why something happened and what happened as a result. Words like *because* and *so* can be clues.

The candle melted because heat from the flame warmed the wax.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle COMPARE or CAUSE for each item, then choose two items for Part 2 and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	A city bus carries many riders, but a bicycle carries one.	COMPARE	CAUSE
2.	A thunderstorm knocked out the power, so the library closed early.	COMPARE	CAUSE
3.	Because rain froze on the steps, the school opened late.	COMPARE	CAUSE
4.	A thermometer measures temperature, while a ruler measures length.	COMPARE	CAUSE
5.	A paper map stays the same, while a phone map can update its route.	COMPARE	CAUSE
6.	Both peaches and plums have pits, but peaches usually have fuzzy skin.	COMPARE	CAUSE
7.	The oven was too hot, so the cookies burned.	COMPARE	CAUSE
8.	Heavy snow covered the field, so the soccer game was canceled.	COMPARE	CAUSE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence that compares two things and one new sentence that shows a cause and its effect.

COMPARE _____

CAUSE _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about one topic: first compare two things, then explain a cause and its effect.

ANSWER KEY # Idea Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A city bus carries many riders, but a bicycle carries one.	**COMPARE**	It contrasts how many riders two kinds of transportation carry.
2	A thunderstorm knocked out the power, so the library closed early.	**CAUSE**	The power outage led to the early closing.
3	Because rain froze on the steps, the school opened late.	**CAUSE**	The frozen rain explains the late opening.
4	A thermometer measures temperature, while a ruler measures length.	**COMPARE**	It contrasts what two tools measure.
5	A paper map stays the same, while a phone map can update its route.	**COMPARE**	It contrasts how two maps handle route changes.
6	Both peaches and plums have pits, but peaches usually have fuzzy skin.	**COMPARE**	It identifies a similarity and a difference between two fruits.
7	The oven was too hot, so the cookies burned.	**CAUSE**	The oven's high heat caused the cookies to burn.
8	Heavy snow covered the field, so the soccer game was canceled.	**CAUSE**	The snow led to the game's cancellation.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **COMPARE**: A turtle has a shell, while a frog does not.
- **CAUSE**: The sprinkler leaked, so the grass stayed wet.

Challenge: A kayak carries fewer people than a ferry. Strong waves forced the ferry to return to shore.

For Part 2, accept any two items if the student identifies the two things being compared or names the cause and its effect. For Part 3, accept original sentences that clearly show the requested relationships.