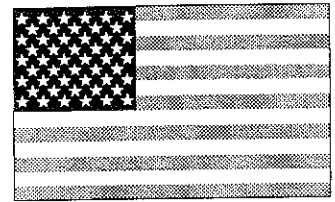


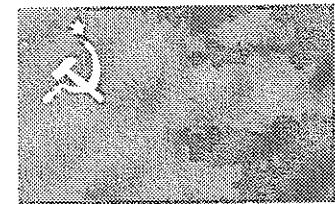
Signal Words for Similarities and Differences			
Similarities		Differences	
again	as well as	although	on the contrary
also	just as . . . so to	but	on the other hand
both	the same	contrary to	neither
likewise		despite	regardless
once more		different from	still
similarly		even though	though
similar to		however	yet
in the same way		in contrast	unlike
like		in opposition	whereas
as		in spite of	while
in a related way		instead	conversely
parallel		nevertheless	

Read the following passage which compares the United States (US) and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) regarding their involvement in World War II and the Cold War. As you read, notice the bolded signal words that point to similarities or differences.

**Neither** the United States nor the USSR had wanted to enter World War II. **Both** had been forced to enter the fighting because of sneak attacks. The Soviets were caught off guard when Hitler broke his non-aggression treaty and invaded the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941. **Similarly**, the United States suffered a surprise attack when the Japanese struck the US naval base at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. From that time on, the two countries were allies in fighting the Axis powers of Germany, Italy, and Japan.



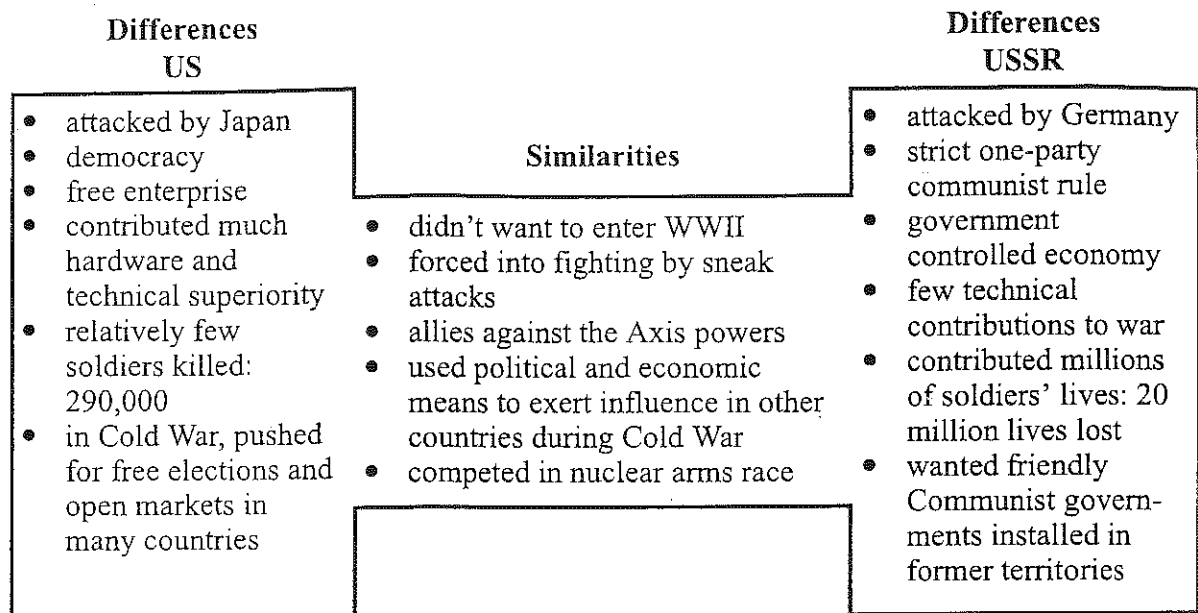
**Both** countries, **however**, had very different ideological systems. The United States had long prided itself as a strong democracy with an emphasis on free enterprise. **In contrast**, the Soviet Union was **still** under the strict one-party rule of the Communists, who exercised strict government control over the economy. The United States contributed vast amounts of hardware and technical superiority to the war effort **but** relatively few soldiers. **On the other hand**, the Soviets provided very little technical development **but** millions of soldiers. The Soviets lost over 20 million lives in the war, **while** 290,000 US soldiers were killed in World War II.



After the defeat of their common enemy, the US and the USSR battled over their ideological differences. The United States pushed for free elections and open markets, **while** the Soviets wanted "friendly" Communist governments installed in formerly occupied territories. During this conflict called the Cold War, **both** countries tried to use economic and political means to exert influence in different parts of the world. **Likewise**, **both** countries tried to gain superiority in the development of nuclear weapons.

After using signal words to identify similarities and differences, you can clarify your findings by **creating an H-map**. An H-map is a simple diagram shaped like the letter H. In the bridge of the H, you list the similarities, and in each column of the H, you list the differences. Make sure you label each column with the key concept you are comparing and contrasting.

Below is an example of a completed H-map based on the reading passage on the previous page. It shows the similarities and differences between the US and the USSR during World War II and the Cold War.



### PRACTICE 5: COMPARING AND CONTRASTING IN A PASSAGE

Read the following passage. Underline the signal words that indicate similarities or differences. Then create an H-map which highlights the similarities and differences between French and English colonization of North America.

The main interest of 17th century French colonizers in North America was trade in animal furs. Some furs were used for hats that were very popular in France at the time. The Native Americans were valuable trading partners to the French, supplying animal pelts from beaver, otter, muskrat, and mink. Consequently, the French saw no need to try to conquer them. Likewise, the French did not destroy the forests because they wanted to maintain the habitat of the animals they valued so much. Because the northern areas of North America, where the French colonized, were sparsely populated, epidemics took less of a toll. Likewise, the French tended to see native peoples as equals, and they accepted intermarriage. The Native Americans were also valuable to the French as allies in wars against the British.

In contrast, the English colonies may be called "colonies of settlement" where settlers tried to establish English society in the New World. They took control of the land and brought their own political and economic systems, as well as crops and animals. The English came to the New World in much greater numbers than the French, and they wanted control of more and more land, thus displacing great numbers of Native Americans. The Native Americans were not as beneficial economically to the English as to the French, so the English saw them, instead, as an obstacle to progress and a nuisance.