

Evidence-Based Writing

Mighty Muskrats: The Case of the Windy Lake - Grade 5 - Short lesson

TIME

OBJECTIVE

PRODUCT

10 minutes Write a focused comparison of Denice's and Dr. Pixton's decisions A concise comparison paragraph after difficult experiences. with a claim, evidence about both characters, and explanation.

Essential question: How do Denice and Dr. Pixton each turn a difficult experience into a decision about what to do next?

Materials	Text to mark
• The book	• Passage 14 - Write the comparison paragraph.

- Prepared passages: Passage 14, Passage 15, Passage 16
- Student response materials

Lesson sequence

1 Set the focus - 2 min Identify both decisions.

Prepared text:	Passages 14, 15, 16
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- Passage 15 - Write the comparison paragraph.
- Passage 16 - Write the comparison paragraph.

2 Compare the evidence - 5 min Compare the direction of the two decisions.

Prepared text:	Passages 14, 15, 16 3 Make the student product - 3 min Write the comparison paragraph.
Prepared text:	Passages 14, 15, 16

Teacher key

Both characters make decisions about future action: Denice will continue the fight, while Pixton ends field excavation of Native remains and chooses to meet living Native people.

Support & extension

Above: Analyze an important difference between the direction of their decisions.

Assessment

- Makes a comparison claim about both characters.
- Accurately describes Denice's declaration without inventing an antecedent for 'them.'
- Accurately describes Pixton's decision.
- Explains how each decision follows an experience or lesson.