



## Writing to Learn: Creative Comparisons

This activity encourages metaphorical thinking and allows students to use what they already know in order to approach and understand the unfamiliar.

**Grade Level:** College, Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12

**Subject Area:** English, Fine Arts, Visual Arts

**Activity Type:** Engagement Activity

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### CREATIVE COMPARISONS

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Begin by inviting students to observe a work of art. Before sharing any information about the object, ask students:

| What do you see in the artwork?

Next, choose a category from the list below or identify one of your own. Ask students:

| Imagine the artwork was a kind of (*your choice of category*) .  
What would it be?

Explain three ways that it compares.

**Sample categories:**

- Music or song
- Toy
- Part of the body
- Food
- Place

Adapted from *Artful Thinking* by [Project Zero](#), Harvard University. Used under [CC BY-NC 4.0](#).