

# Some Adaptations to the Triangular Comparison Diagram

Jayson's examples are on following pages.

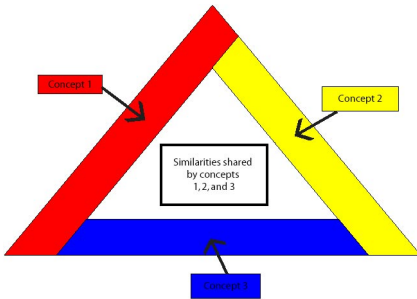


Figure 1

We loved the modifications Jayson Foster did on the Triangular Comparison Diagram (TCD, Figure 1) so much; we had to share them with all of you! Jayson found his students were getting frustrated with the original format because at times they wanted to make comparisons between two of the three concepts. He introduced the three-circle Venn Diagram, (Figure 2), but his students tended to get confused; a problem they didn't have using the triangular format.

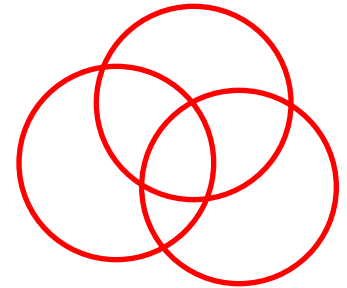


Figure 2

Jayson's first variation, Figure 3, is similar to the CRISS TCD in that the students write the individual traits of each of the three items to be compared along the sides of the triangle, and the traits shared by all three items are recorded in the middle of the triangle. Unlike the CRISS TCD, the common traits between any two items are listed in the corner (diamond or rhombus-shaped area) of the triangle, which lies between the two sides (items) being compared. For times when more focus is being placed on the similarities, rather than the concept, Jayson switches the location of information. He instructs students to place the *concepts* in the corner diamonds and list the *similarities* along the sides of the triangle.

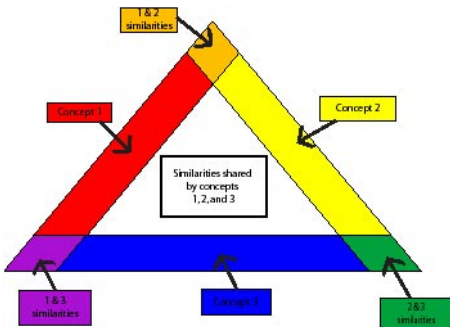


Figure 3

(diamond or rhombus-shaped area) of the triangle, which lies between the two sides (items) being compared. For times when more focus is being placed on the similarities, rather than the concept, Jayson switches the location of information. He instructs students to place the *concepts* in the corner diamonds and list the *similarities* along the sides of the triangle.

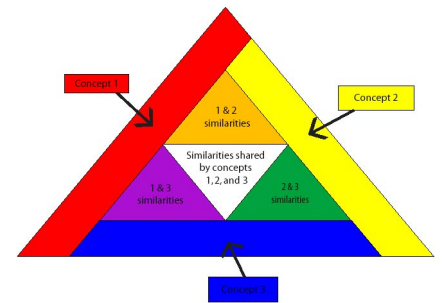
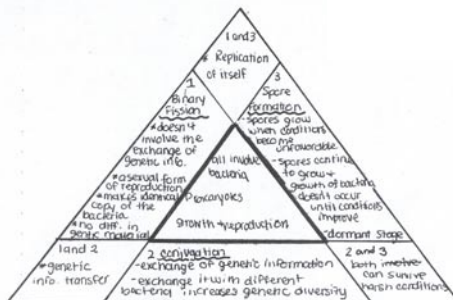


Figure 4

When this corner area isn't large enough to hold all the common features, Jayson has his students use another modification (See Figure 4) where interior triangles contain the common traits between any two sides. As in all previous TCDs the most interior triangle always contains the common traits of all three items being compared.

The example below was done by Shelby, a freshman biology student. She used Jayson's first format to compare the three different types of bacteria reproduction: binary fission, conjunction, and spore formation.

**About the Contributor**-Jayson Foster currently teaches biology at Niles North High School in Skokie, Illinois, but is



Shelby's example.

See next page for full view.

endorsed in other subjects, such as physical science, chemistry, algebra, and some areas of social studies.

He tells us, "It (Skokie) is the epicenter of cultural diversity . . . we have almost every language you can think of spoken here. I love my school and my district. My students are the best. They have great personalities, and I really enjoy seeing them adapt CRISS to their own cognitive abilities."

We created some blackline masters of Jayson's two versions for you to use in your classroom. The blackline masters are at the end of this article.

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