

Comparison / Contrast Organization

Points of Comparison

When you need to show how something is like something else.



Points of Contrast

When you need to show how something is different from something else.

Signal Words

Signal Words For Comparison

Similar
Alike
Like
Same
Both
As well as
also
too



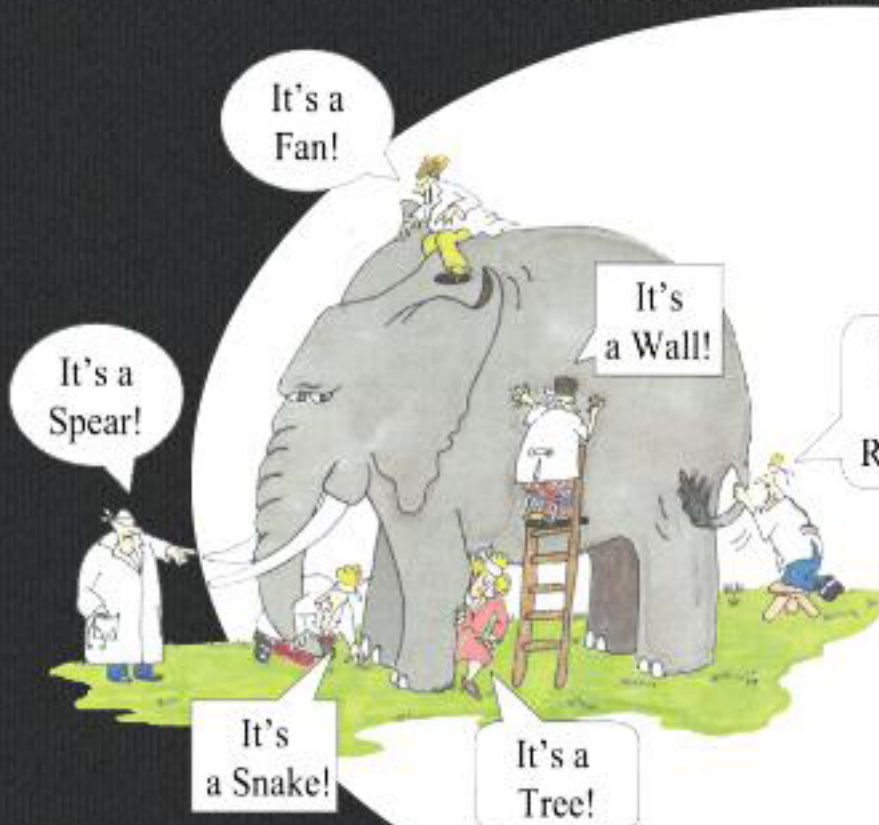
Signal Words For Contrast

However
Although
But
On the other hand
While
Yet
In Contrast

Venn Diagram

The Wise Men & the Elephant

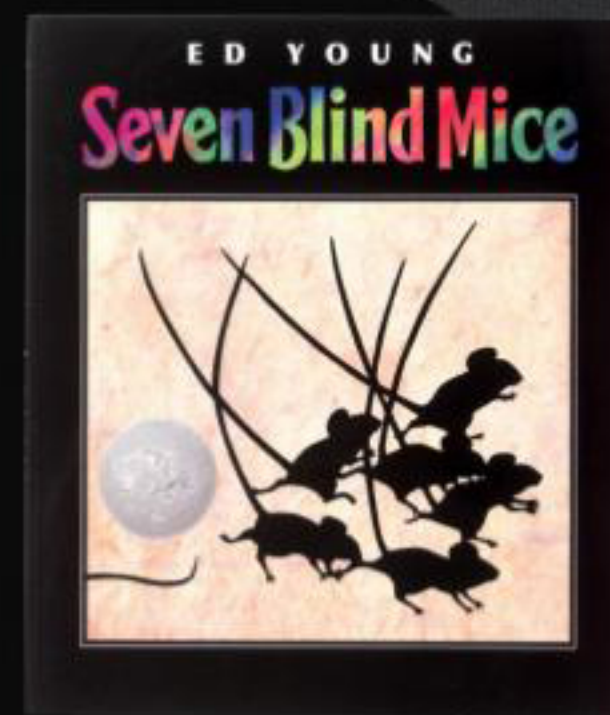
Seven Blind Mice



By Subject

The men in "The Wise Men and the Elephant" approach the problem of the elephant a little differently than the mice, and the result is an ending that is very different from "Seven Blind Mice." The wise men all approach the elephant at the same time, and the argument begins almost immediately since they are all touching different parts of the elephant. "The elephant is like a fan," cries the first man.

"Seven Blind Mice" gives the reader some help that isn't offered in story of the wise men. Instead of going all at once to see the "something" in their pond, the mice go one at a time. Since Ed Young's story is a picture book illustrated for children, he adds some helpful symbolism in the illustrations that is impossible in the other story. Each mouse is a different color representing its own unique point of view.



Point by Point

Both of these stories share some basic qualities. The characters in both stories are literally blind. And in both stories, their blindness symbolizes a blindness that many of us experience ourselves when we are blinded by our own point-of-view. Both groups of characters are trying to solve a basic problem that has come into their lives. What is an elephant really like? Since none of the characters can use their eyes, they come up with the plan of using their sense of touch to "see" what an elephant is really like.

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