

Semantic Feature Analysis

A Semantic Feature Analysis is a matrix that helps students compare and contrast common features of similar things.

This strategy is a vocabulary and informational text strategy used to generate student thinking, collect data, and assess knowledge.

Procedure:

1. Select a topic from a science, math or social studies.
2. Create a matrix that has the key concepts or vocabulary terms on the left side and the common features across the top.
3. Have students use an “X” to indicate when a property applies to the term.
Example:

| | <i>Features</i> | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <i>Terms</i> | Hair or Fur | Backbone | Smooth Skin | Scales | Feathers |
| Fish | | X | | X | |
| Amphibian | | X | X | | |
| Reptile | | X | | X | |
| Bird | | X | | | X |
| Mammal | X | X | | | |