

Compare & Contrast Writing



Level 3

The Pony Express and the Telegraph

In the mid-1800's, the United States did not have any fast form of communication between the East and the West, so Americans used the Pony Express and later the telegraph. Although very different, the Pony Express and the telegraph have some similarities. Both were used for communication. With either one, people could send or get mail to or from the East or West.

The Pony Express was a mail service on ponies. Riders and their horses faced different temperatures and terrain. They had to go over rough ground. It was a dangerous job because they could get killed by an Indian or wild animal. The trip took about ten days from Missouri to California.

The telegraph was an electronic device that sent signals over a wire. The telegraph was a faster, easier, and safer form of communication. The people sending and receiving messages did not have to go very far. They would just have to go to the telegram station. The telegraph usually took seconds to send a message from the East to the West.

The Pony Express and the telegraph were very different, but they both helped America communicate in the time before the telephone.

This is an excellent effort!

This student put all of the similarities in the opening paragraph, then used the second two paragraphs to group differences around the two subjects being compared.

The result is very clear and easy to understand. Note the good parallelism, too.

The student might have added something to this conclusion to make it a *little* longer.