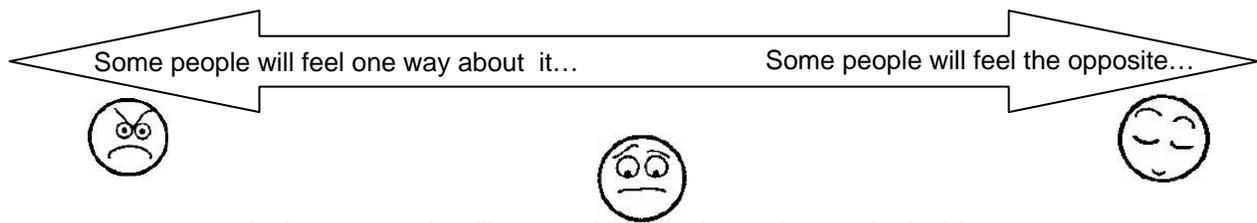


## Responding to Comparison/Contrast through Writing: Three-Voice Story Board: Focus on Feelings

**Two-sentence summary:** After studying topics on which people might have differing feelings, students create three dialogue bubbles that represent three different viewpoints: one that loves the topic, one that dislikes it, and one with a moderate feeling. Students then create a story board (or comic strip) that allows all three voices to be heard in it.

**Background knowledge needed:** The world has many shades of gray, and our students often think about important issues as though they only have black and white extremes. Share the pictorial continuum below with your students to introduce this writing assignment:

**No matter what the topic...**



And some people will see positives and negatives on both sides.

**Comparing/Contrasting:** Start students off with sentence frames (like these) to get their comparison/contrast thinking going:

- I like [topic] because\_\_\_\_\_.
- I don't like [topic] because\_\_\_\_\_.
- I sort of like but sort of dislike [topic] because\_\_\_\_\_.

Encourage students to fill in the blanks with answers that have depth to them. "Because they're nice" can be unpacked further with a simple, "What are several things that make them so nice?"

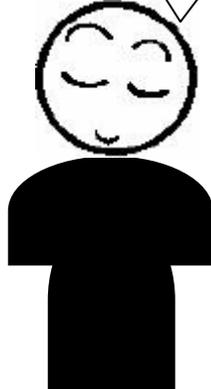
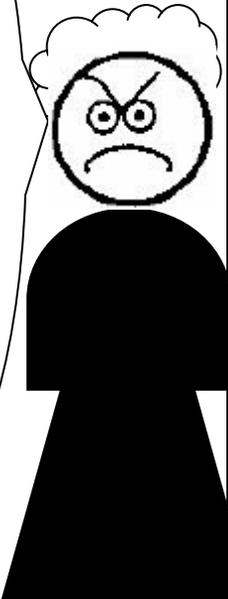
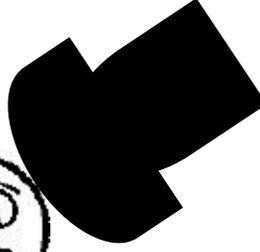
When the frames are completed, challenge students to revise what they've originally written with this criterion: "Write what will go in the dialogue bubble so that I don't see any elements of the original frame, please." Show the example on the next page for inspiration.

**Differentiating Instruction Ideas:** If you have students who have trouble moving away from the sentence frames above, set up a classroom situation where all students share with other students, and then ask students to read aloud dialogue snippets that sounded totally "frame-free." Let these student-generated examples inspire students to leave the frame when they are ready.

**A thought on the writing task:** For this activity, have students write a rough draft of their three frames on another piece of paper. Only after they have shared with other students and listened for ways to make their own ideas even stronger with revised ideas should they be given the blank story frame worksheet (next page) to complete the assignment.

# Three-voice story board, worksheet & example

Title:			
			Likes it!
			
			In between.
			
			Hates it!
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Give voice to three variations of these faces in your story</p> </div>

Title: <i>Sedimentary Rocks</i>			
 <p>The nice thing about sedimentary rocks is that they're easy to find. Most surface rocks are sedimentary!</p>	 <p>Are you kidding me? Sedimentary rocks make lots of dust and they're weak little things!</p>	  <p>Ok, I get that they're not the strongest of rocks, but do you know how many fossils you can find in sedimentary rocks? Fossils rock!</p>	Likes it!
			
			In between.
			
			Hates it!
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Give voice to three variations of these faces in your story board.</p> </div>