

Boost Free Lessons - Year 8 English

Lesson 16: Comparing Two Texts

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Read both texts below carefully. They deal with the same event. The line numbers run continuously across both texts.

Two Accounts of the Same Decision

1 TEXT A: from the council's media release

2

3 Council has approved the redevelopment of the Wattle Street site following
4 a twelve-month consultation process. The plan delivers 48 dwellings, of
5 which 12 will be offered at below-market rents, along with 400 square
6 metres of public open space.

7

8 Submissions were invited between March and September. Council received 214
9 responses and incorporated feedback on building height, reducing the
10 proposal from six storeys to four.

11

12 Construction is scheduled to begin in the new year.

13

14 TEXT B: from a letter to the local newspaper

15

16 So the Wattle Street decision is done, and the last open ground in this
17 part of town goes with it.

18

19 We are told there was a twelve-month consultation. What we were not told is
20 that 214 submissions arrived and 190 of them opposed the development. The
21 height came down by two storeys. Nothing else changed.

22

23 There will be open space, we are assured. Four hundred square metres of it,
24 which is roughly the size of two tennis courts, shared between 48 homes.

25

26 I do not doubt the housing is needed. I doubt that it had to be here, and I
27 am certain nobody asked us whether it should be.



Worked Example 1

How do the two texts present the consultation process differently?

1. A comparison answer must handle **both** texts, not describe one then the other.
2. Find the same fact in each. Both mention twelve months and 214 submissions.
3. Ask what each text does with it. Text A states the number and moves on; Text B adds that 190 opposed.
4. The facts do not conflict. The difference is **selection**, so explain what each text chooses to leave out.

Model: Both texts report 214 submissions, but Text A stops there (lines 8 to 9), while Text B adds that 190 opposed the plan (line 20). Neither statement is false. Text A's omission allows consultation to appear successful, while Text B's addition reframes the same process as ignored.

Remember: When comparing texts, deal with **both** in each answer. Look for the same fact treated differently, and pay attention to **selection**: what each text chooses to include and leave out.



Question 1: Answer the following questions. Give the line numbers you used in your answers.

1. How many dwellings will the development contain?

2. How many will be offered below market rent?

3. How many submissions were received?

4. What single change was made to the proposal?

5. According to Text B, how many submissions opposed the development?

6. What comparison does Text B use to describe the open space?



Question 2: Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Compare the tone of the two texts, using evidence from each.

2. Both texts mention 400 square metres. Explain how each presents it differently.

3. Which text is more objective? Explain, using evidence.

4. Text B concedes that housing is needed. Why does the writer include this?

5. Which text do you find more persuasive, and why? Refer to both texts.





Every student has gaps. The hard part is knowing exactly where they are.
That is what a Boost assessment is for.

Book a Free Assessment

Normally valued at \$199, free for new families

- A friendly skills check aligned to the NSW syllabus
- Face to face with our qualified tutors
- A clear picture of your child's strengths and gaps
- A weekly plan built around what they actually need

Book a Free Assessment →

boosttutoring.com.au/contact



Answers and Model Responses: Comparing Two Texts**Question 1**

1. 48.
2. 12.
3. 214.
4. The height was reduced from six storeys to four.
5. 190.
6. Roughly the size of two tennis courts.

Question 2

1. Model: Text A is impersonal and formal, using passive constructions such as “Submissions were invited” (line 8) and no first person at all. Text B is personal and frustrated, using “we” and “us” throughout and ending on “nobody asked us” (line 27). Text A sounds like a record; Text B sounds like a complaint.
2. Model: Text A lists it as a benefit alongside the dwellings (lines 5 to 6), presenting it as a gain. Text B converts it into tennis courts and divides it between 48 homes (lines 23 to 24), presenting the same figure as inadequate.
3. Model: Text A is more objective, since it reports checkable figures without judgement. However, it is not neutral, because omitting how many submissions opposed the plan shapes the impression as much as Text B’s word choices do.
4. Model: Conceding the need for housing prevents the writer being dismissed as simply opposed to everything. It narrows the argument to location and consultation, which is the ground the writer can actually win on.
5. Model: Text B is more persuasive because it supplies the figure Text A omits, and because conceding the need for housing (line 26) makes the writer seem reasonable. However, Text B is not fully reliable either, since the claim that 190 submissions opposed the plan is not sourced, and readers only have the writer’s word for it.

