Station 3

Democracy Compare and Contrast

Complete the chart below in point form by doing research.

Points of Comparison	Athenian System of Democracy	Canadian System of Democracy
Who qualified/qualifies as a citizen?		
Who could/can elect representatives?		
Who could/can vote about laws?		
How many levels of government were/are there?		
How were/are court cases decided?		
How were/are unpopular leaders dealt with?		

You are to use the information above to write two well-organised paragraphs, one comparing and the other contrasting the Athenian and Canadian systems of democracy.

Criteria A & C

Compare and Contrast Paragraphs

Comparison Paragraphs start with a topic sentence that suggests there are **similarities** between the things being compared. Consider the following paragraph. Note the comparison conjunctions (words used as 'joiners') in bold, which aid the paragraph's coherence.

   My hometown and my college town have several things in common. First, both are small rural communities. For example, my hometown, Cairns, has a population of only about 10,000 people. **Similarly**, my college town, Townsville, consists of about 11,000 local residents. This population swells to 15,000 people when the college students are attending classes. **A second way** in which these two towns are similar is that they are both located in rural areas. Cairns is surrounded by many acres of farmland which is devoted mainly to growing corn and soybeans. **In the same way,** Townsville lies in the center of farmland which is used to raise hogs and cattle . **Thirdly, these towns are similar** in that they contain college campuses. Cairns, for example, is home to Neutron College, which is famous for its Agricultural Economics program as well as for its annual Corn-Watching Festival. **Likewise**, the town of Townsville boasts the beautiful campus of Quark College, which is well known for its Agricultural Engineering department and also for its yearly Hog-Calling Contest.

Contrast Paragraphs start with a topic sentence that suggests there are **differences** between the things being contrasted. You can organize contrast paragraphs in much the same way that you can organize comparison paragraphs. Here is an example of such a paragraph organized by subtopic. Notice the contrastive expressions in bold letters:

   Even though Arizona and Rhode Island are both states of the U.S., they are strikingly different in many ways. For example, the physical size of each state is different. Arizona is large, having an area of 114,000 square miles, **whereas** Rhode Island is only about a tenth the size, having an area of only 1,214 square miles. **Another difference** is in the size of the population of each state. Arizona has about four million people living in it, but Rhode Island has less than one million. **The two states also differ** in the kinds of natural environments that each has. For example, Arizona is a very dry state, consisting of large desert areas that do not receive much rainfall every year. **However**, Rhode Island is located in a temperate zone and receives an average of 44 inches of rain per year. **In addition, while** Arizona is a landlocked state and thus has no seashore, Rhode Island lies on the Atlantic Ocean and does have a significant coastline.

Other contrasting conjunction you may wish to consider --

However, In contrast, By contrast, ..., but, ..., yet, On the other hand, even though + [sentence], although + [sentence], whereas + [sentence], unlike + [sentence], while + [sentence], nevertheless.