

## Balance Check Answer Key

Below is a guide showing which statements fall into which category.

### Comparison Points:

- Both the school library and the public library provide quiet spaces where students can read and study.
- They each offer access to books, computers, and helpful staff members.
- While the two libraries share a focus on learning and literacy...

### Contrast Points:

- However, the public library stays open longer and provides more programs for different age groups.
- Unlike the school library, it also offers community events that take place on weekends.
- ...the public library serves a wider audience with more flexible hours.

**Balance Rating:** The paragraph is **balanced**, because it includes several comparison points as well as several contrast points, with neither side overwhelming the other.

### Teacher's Guide

- Before students begin, review the difference between **comparison points** (shared traits) and **contrast points** (differences).
- Encourage students to mark transitions like *both*, *while*, *however*, and *unlike* as clues.
- For differentiation:
  - Offer a color coded example paragraph that has been partially labeled.
  - Allow students to work with partners to identify points together.
- For engagement:
  - Let students vote on whether the paragraph feels balanced before revealing the sample answer.
- For extension:
  - Ask students to write their own paragraph and trade with a partner to perform the same balance check.