

Comparison & Contrast Essay



Lecture 15



A comparison and contrast essay focuses on how two items or texts are similar, different, or similar in some ways and different in others. You can compare and contrast any number of items including theories, events, books, or people.

STRUCTURE

Which Style?

Block Style

The Block Method presents all arguments related to A, and then compares and/or contrasts them to all arguments related to B.

Point by Point

The Point-by-Point method alternates arguments about the two items (A and B) that you are comparing and/or contrasting.

What style do you want to choose?

Method 1

POINT BY POINT STYLE

Usefulness of this Method

This method is often easier for a reader to follow because similarities and differences are more obvious when placed next to each other.

Body Paragraph 1

- o Point 1 - discuss A
- o Point 1 - discuss B
- o Discussion about overall links between A and B

Body Paragraph 2

- o Point 2 – discuss A
- o Point 2 - discuss B
- o Discussion about overall links between A and B

Method 2

BLOCK STYLE/SUBJECT BY SUBJECT

Usefulness of this Method

The Block Method presents all arguments related to A, and then compares and/or contrasts them to all arguments related to B. It can be useful for shorter assignments.

Body Paragraph 1

- o Point 1 about A
- o Point 2 about A
- o And so on

Body Paragraph 2

- o Point 1 about B (with discussion about connections to A)
- o Point 2 about B (with discussion about connections to A)
- o And so on

TIP

To keep the readers focused, always keep the following points in mind



Write Effective Introductory & Conclusive Paragraph

Use transitional words or phrases to achieve the coherence

BLOCK METHOD	POINT-BY-POINT METHOD
Present one subject and all its points of comparison. Then do the same for the second subject. Discuss each subject completely without interruption.	Include both subjects in one point of comparison before moving on to the next point of comparison.
<p>Paragraph 1: Introduction</p> <p>Thesis: There are two solid options for data storage, each with pros and cons.</p> <p>Paragraph 2: Cloud data storage</p> <p>cost</p> <p>ease of use,</p> <p>reliability</p> <p>Paragraph 3: Traditional data storage</p> <p>cost</p> <p>ease of use,</p> <p>reliability</p> <p>Paragraph 4: Conclusion</p>	<p>Paragraph 1: Introduction</p> <p>Thesis: There are two solid options for data storage, each with pros and cons.</p> <p>Paragraph 2: Cost</p> <p>cloud data storage</p> <p>traditional data storage</p> <p>Paragraph 3: Ease of use</p> <p>cloud data storage</p> <p>traditional data storage</p> <p>Paragraph 4: Reliability</p> <p>cloud data storage</p> <p>traditional data storage</p> <p>Paragraph 5: Conclusion</p>

Organize by Subject:

(1) Thesis (Organic vegetables may cost more than those that are conventionally grown, but when put to the test, they are definitely worth every extra penny.)

(2) Subject 1: Organic Vegetables

Point 1: Chemicals/Pesticides

Point 2: Nutrition

Point 3: Taste

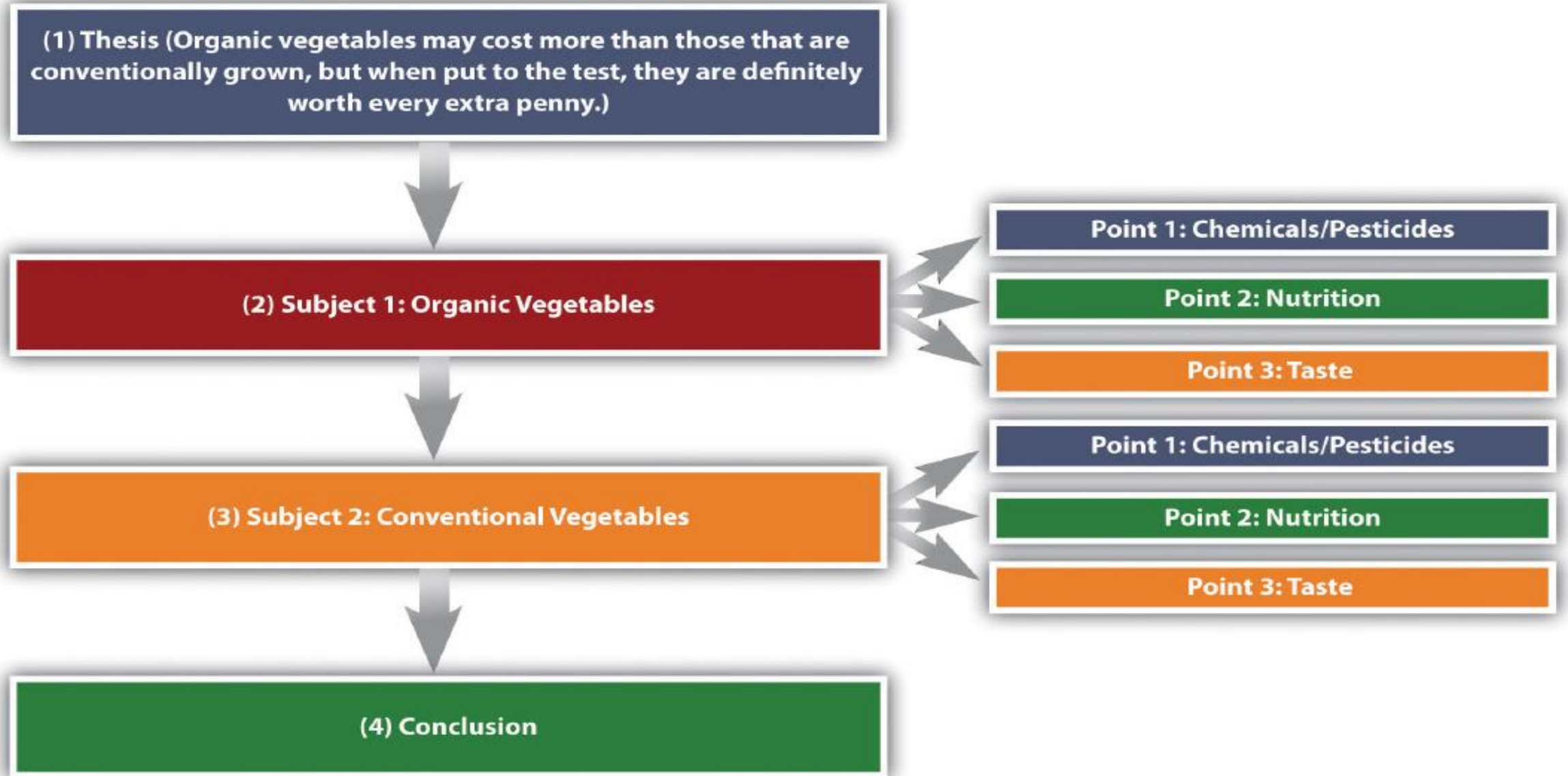
(3) Subject 2: Conventional Vegetables

Point 1: Chemicals/Pesticides

Point 2: Nutrition

Point 3: Taste

(4) Conclusion



Organize by Point:

(1) Thesis (Organic vegetables may cost more than those that are conventionally grown, but when put to the test, they are definitely worth every extra penny.)

(2) Point 1: Chemicals/Pesticides

Subject 1: Organic

Subject 2: Conventional

(3) Point 2: Nutrition

Subject 1: Organic

Subject 2: Conventional

(4) Point 3: Taste

Subject 1: Organic

Subject 2: Conventional

(5) Conclusion

Connectors That Show Comparison between Sentences

COMPARISON	EXAMPLES
In addition , subject + verb.	Both Red Beauty and Midnight Dream roses are known for the size of their blooms, their color, and their fragrance. In addition , they are easy to grow.
Similarly , subject + verb.	The Midnight Dream rose won awards in local contests last year. Similarly , the Red Beauty rose was singled out for its beauty.
Likewise , subject + verb.	The blooms of Red Beauty roses last longer than those of most other roses. Likewise , the blooms of the Midnight Dream rose are long lasting.
Compared to subject, + verb.	Some roses last for a very short time. Compared to these roses, the blooms of Red Beauty and Midnight Dream roses last a long time.

Connectors That Show Contrast or Concession between Sentences

CONTRAST OR CONCESSION	EXAMPLES
However , subject + verb. <i>or</i> Nevertheless , subject + verb.	Many differences are clear to even beginner gardeners. Nevertheless , some of their differences are not very obvious.
On the other hand , subject + verb.	Some people find gardening dull. On the other hand , some people like nothing better than to work in their gardens.
In contrast , subject + verb.	Red Beauty has a strong, sweet fragrance. In contrast , Midnight Dream's fragrance is light and fruity.
Although subject + verb, subject + verb.	Both Midnight Dream roses and Red Beauty roses are red. Although both varieties produce red flowers, Midnight Dream roses are much darker than Red Beauty roses.
Even though subject + verb, subject + verb.	Red Beauty roses and Midnight Dream roses are long-stemmed. Even though both of these species are long stemmed, Red Beauty stems are thinner and covered with thorns.
Unlike noun, subject + verb.	What do we know about the cost of these two kinds of roses? Unlike Red Beauty, Midnight Dream roses are relatively inexpensive.

ACTIVITY 17 | Creating an outline

Use the following outline to help you brainstorm a more detailed plan for your comparison essay. For this activity, use the point-by-point method of organization. Remember that the point-by-point method organizes each paragraph by one point of development. Include your ideas from Activity 16.

Topic: _____

I. Introduction (Paragraph 1)

A. Hook: _____

B. Connecting information: _____

C. Thesis statement: _____

II. Body

A. Paragraph 2 (first point of comparison) topic sentence: _____

- SUPPORT
1. _____

a. _____

b. _____
2. _____

a. _____

b. _____

B. Paragraph 3 (second point of comparison) topic sentence: _____

- SUPPORT
1. _____

a. _____

b. _____
2. _____

a. _____

b. _____

C. Paragraph 4 (third point of comparison) topic sentence: _____

- SUPPORT
1. _____

a. _____

b. _____
2. _____

a. _____

b. _____

III. Conclusion (Paragraph 5)

A. Restated thesis: _____

B. Suggestion, prediction, question, or opinion: _____

If you need ideas for phrasing, see *Useful Words and Phrases* in the *Writer's Handbook*.

Model thesis statements for compare and contrast essays.

Structure:

1. _____ and _____ have _____ in common but differences are _____

Christianity and Islam have many clear things in common but differences are vital/hidden regarding monotheism, afterlife and divine book.

Structure:

2. A comparison between _____ and _____ similarities (differences)...

A comparison between hotels and motels reveals many similarities and difference in management, guest dealing and accommodation.

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