**Compare and Contrast Essay Worksheet**

***Question: Develop a clear, specific, and debatable thesis statement and topic sentences for a compare and contrast essay.***

1. O*nline vs. Traditional Learning*
2. *City Life vs. Suburban Life*
3. *Books vs. Movies*
4. **Your Topic: Books vs Movies**
5. **Determine the Purpose of Your Essay**

What is the goal of your essay? Check one:

☐ To show how the two subjects are **similar**.

☐ To show how the two subjects are **different**.

* To show **both similarities and differences**.

1. Fill in the chart below to compare and contrast the two subjects. Write as many points as you can think of.

| **Point of Comparison** | **Subject A:** | **Subject B:** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Details | Books have more details about characters and events. | Movies often cut details to fit within a shorter time |
| 1. Imagination | Books let you imagine how everything looks and feels. | Movies show you exactly what the story looks like. |
| 1. Length | Books take longer to read and enjoy at your own pace. | Movies are shorter and usually watched in one sitting. |
| 1. Perspective | Books can explain thoughts and feelings of characters. | Movies use acting and visuals to show emotions and ideas. |

#### ****Narrow Down Key Points****

Review your brainstorming. Select **2-4 key points** that you will focus on in your essay. Write them below:

**Key Point 1:** Details  
**Key Point 2:** Imagination  
**Key Point 3 (optional):** Length  
**Key Point 4 (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Choose an Organizational Pattern**

Decide how you will structure your essay:

☐ **Block Method**: Discuss all points about Subject A first, then all points about Subject B.

☐ **Point-by-Point Method**: Alternate between subjects for each point of comparison.

* **Similarities-Differences Method**: Focus on similarities in one section, differences in another.

1. **Draft Your Thesis Statement**

Follow this formula to develop a thesis:

1. Identify both subjects.
2. State whether you will compare, contrast, or do both.
3. Highlight the key points you will discuss.

**Example Templates**

1. While [Subject A] and [Subject B] share similarities in [Point 1] and [Point 2], they differ significantly in [Point 3].
2. [Subject A] and [Subject B] are both [general similarity], but they differ in terms of [Point 1], [Point 2], and [Point 3].
3. Although [Subject A] and [Subject B] have some differences, they are alike in [Point 1] and [Point 2].
4. **Write Your Thesis Below:**

Books and movies are both popular ways to tell stories, but they differ in terms of length, imagination, and details.

**Evaluate Your Thesis**

Check your thesis for these qualities:

1. **Clarity**: Is it easy to understand?
2. **Specificity**: Does it mention the subjects and key points?
3. **Debatability**: Could someone disagree with it?
4. **Relevance**: Does it directly address the essay question or purpose?
5. **Divide Thesis into Topic Sentences**

Break your thesis into smaller parts for body paragraphs. Each key point from your thesis should become a topic sentence.

**Example Thesis:**  
While cats and dogs share similarities in companionship and adaptability, they differ in independence, cost, and training needs.

**Topic Sentences:**

1. Cats and dogs both provide valuable companionship to their owners.
2. Cats are more independent than dogs, making them easier to care for.
3. The cost of owning a cat is generally lower than owning a dog.
4. Dogs require more training than cats, but this can make them more versatile pets.

**Now, Write Your Topic Sentences for the chosen topic:**

1. One of the major difference between books and movies is the amount of time the both consume. Books usually take days or even weeks to read whereas the movie can be completed in few hours.
2. Books encourage readers to use their imagination to visualize characters and settings, whereas movies shows everything directly.
3. Books tend to include more detailed descriptions of characters, events, and backgrounds, while movies leave some things out..
4. Books require active reading and imagination, while movies offer a more passive, visual experience.