**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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
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.** |  |  |
| **2.** |  |  |
| **3.** |  |  |
| **4.** |  |  |

#### ****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:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
**Key Point 2:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
**Key Point 3 (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
**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:**

**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:**