

## Compare/Contrast Essay Practice

**This is your chance to practice writing a compare/contrast essay. Follow the directions below.**

### Organization

Please use the “Point-by-Point” format.

Follow these steps:

- First, do some prewriting with a pen and paper, letting your ideas flow naturally. REMEMBER: Don’t judge your ideas in the beginning. You can make a list or a chart or whatever works for you.
- Choose and highlight your three best points of comparison or contrast.
- Next, make an outline.
- At this point, you’re ready to write!
- Write your essay.
  - Introduce your essay in an interesting way and create a clear thesis statement at the end of your introductory paragraph. Keep the introduction short.
  - Make sure you have 3 body paragraphs of similarities OR differences. Also, make sure they are well supported with details and examples.
  - Make sure your body paragraphs have clear topic sentences with transition words.
  - In your conclusion, remember to briefly summarize the main ideas you have presented in the body paragraphs and then take your ideas further to their logical conclusion, but don’t introduce any new ideas. Keep the conclusion short.

### Language Use

Remember to use sentence variety, parallel structure, and correct punctuation.

### Format

Practice following formatting rules that a teacher might give you:

- Type a title on the top line/center it and capitalize important words.
- Indent each paragraph.
- Use a 12pt. font.
- Double space.
- Use 1” margins.

### Topics: Choose ONE

1. Contrast *people of your age* with *those of your parents’ generation*. Think about beliefs, values, goals, traditions, language, etc.
2. It has been said, “Not everything is contained in books.” Contrast *the knowledge gained from experience* with *knowledge gained from books*. Be sure to support your answer.
3. Contrast *the way you behave and talk with your parents* to *the way you are with your friends*. Be specific.