

Handout 1

Exercise 1

Read the compare-and-contrast paragraph and answer the questions below. It will help you notice the key features of the paragraph.¹

Paying for college

Studying full-time and part-time is different because students will have different experiences, graduation time, debt amounts after graduation. First of all, full-time students and part-time students have different experiences. Full-time students can take classes at any time, meet with other students, and actively participate in campus organizations. On the other hand, part-time students work, and their jobs take a lot of time and energy. Therefore, part-time students have less time to socialize and participate in campus activities. The second difference is the time that it takes to graduate. Full-time students usually graduate on time. The reason is that full-time students take many classes each semester and finish faster. In contrast, part-time students take fewer classes a semester because of their job commitments. As a result, such students often have to go to school longer. Finally, the greatest difference is the amount of debt after graduation. Full-time students do not usually have an income. So, such students pay for their college tuition through loans. For this reason, full-time students have to re-pay the loans for many years after they graduate. On the other hand, part-time students can pay for the classes right away. Therefore, part-time students often have less debt after they graduate. To conclude, full-time students and part-time students experience their study differently, graduate at different times, and have different amounts of debt after graduating.

1. Find the paragraph head. What is the topic of the paragraph? What is the controlling idea of the paragraph?
2. What two subjects is the writer comparing?
3. Find the difference that the writer discusses in every set of the supporting sentences. Does the writer discuss this difference for one or for both of the subjects in each supporting set?
4. What transitions does the writer use to introduce each supporting set?
5. What transitions does the writer use to compare and contrast?
6. What transitions does the writer use to conclude the paragraph?
7. What are the key features of a compare-and-contrast paragraph?

¹ Adapted from: Bauer, J., Boyle M.S., Stapleton, S. (2016). Final Draft 2. Student's book. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Exercise 2

Read the compare-and-contrast paragraph again.

Fill the blanks in the outline for "Paying for college" (see the next page).

Use the phrases in the box.

debt after graduation

participate in organizations

do not socialize as much

time to graduate

PARAGRAPH OUTLINE

Paragraph head			Studying full-time and part-time is different because students will have different experiences, graduation time, debt amounts after graduation.
Comparison point 1			Students' experience
Subject A.			Full-time students
Supporting set 1	Detail	1.	Take classes anytime.
	Detail	2.	Meet people.
	Detail	3.
Subject B.			Part-time students
Supporting set 2	Detail	1.	very busy working
	Detail	2.
	Detail	3.	less time for school organizations
Comparison point 2		
Subject A.			Full-time students
Supporting set 3	Detail	1.	Take many classes.
	Detail	2.	Finish fast
Subject B.			Part-time students
Supporting set 4	Detail		take fewer classes
	Detail		need time to work
Comparison point 3		
Subject A.			Full-time students
Supporting set 5	Detail		need to repay loans
Subject B.			Part-time students
Supporting set 6	Detail		no loans to repay
Concluding sentence			To conclude, full-time students and part-time students experience their study differently, graduate at different times, and have different amounts of debt after graduating.