

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

ESSAY WRITING

DEFINITION

- ▶ Writing a comparison/contrast essay involves **comparing and contrasting two subjects**.
- ▶ **A comparison** shows how two things are alike.
- ▶ **A contrast** shows how two things are different.
- ▶ In academic writing, the word “comparison” is used to refer to both comparison and contrast.

GUIDELINES

- ▶ Analyze both the things in detail.
- ▶ Make an inventory of the similarities and the differences between them.
- ▶ The comparison should be a fair comparison.
- ▶ State why it is important to compare the two things.
- ▶ Be objective and neutral.

Develop a Thesis

- ▶ The thesis statement in the essay includes the **two subjects** you are comparing or contrasting and the **main point** you want to make about them.
- ▶ Example:
 - ▶ Consuming fresh food is different from consuming canned food on the basis of flavor, health benefits, and cost.
 - ▶ Soccer is more exciting, popular, and active than baseball.

STRUCTURE OF A COMPARISON & CONTRAST ESSAY

- ▶ Point by Point
- ▶ Block Style (subject by subject)

Point by Point

- ▶ You support and explain your thesis statement by discussing each point of comparison or contrast, switching back and forth between subjects

Point by Point Outline

- ▶ I- Introduction: Motivator and Thesis
- ▶ II- Body Paragraph 1:
 - ▶ Topic sentence Main point 1
 - ▶ subject 1
 - ▶ subject 2
- ▶ Body Paragraph 2
- ▶ Topic sentence Main point 2
 - ▶ Subject 1
 - ▶ Subject 2
- ▶ Body Paragraph 3
- ▶ Topic sentence Main point 3
 - ▶ Subject 1
 - ▶ Subject 2
- ▶ Conclusion

Sample Point-By-Point Paragraph:

A topic sentence states both topics to be compared or contrasted.

Transitional words or phrases indicate the differences or similarities.

A conclusion sentence explains the relevance of the comparison and contrast.

There are key differences between academic and professional writing. For example, academic writing is generally structured differently than professional writing. Academic papers usually include traditional, well-developed paragraphs, whereas professional documents often contain short direct paragraphs with bullet points to highlight key ideas. Additionally, academic writing uses the more objective third-person point-of-view, such as the use of "he, she, or it," while professional writing uses the first-person point-of-view, or use of "I," so that the communication comes directly from the author. Both styles of writing, however, require a formal tone. Similarly, academic and professional writing both employ a serious tone required in formal writing to gain the respect of the reader. No matter which type of writing you are creating, it is most important to tailor your writing to fit the expectations of the genre so that your message will be well received.

Point #1

Point #2

Point #3

Block Style

- ▶ Write everything (your details) about your first subject and then you write everything about your second subject.
- ▶ The same points should be discussed for both subjects in the same order.
- ▶ It has four paragraphs.

Subject by subject Outline

- ▶ I -Introduction: Motivator and thesis
- ▶ II- Body Paragraph 1:
 - ▶ Subject 1 Topic sentence
 - ▶ Main point 1
 - ▶ Main point 2
 - ▶ Main point 3
- ▶ III- Body Paragraph 2:
 - ▶ Subject 2 Topic sentence
 - ▶ Main point 1
 - ▶ Main point 2
 - ▶ Main point 3
- ▶ IV- Conclusion

Connectors That Show Comparison (Similarities)

- ▶ In addition
- ▶ Correspondingly
- ▶ Compared to
- ▶ Similarly
- ▶ Just as
- ▶ As well as
- ▶ Likewise
- ▶ Same as
- ▶ At the same time

Connectors That Show Contrast (Differences)

- ▶ However
- ▶ On the contrary
- ▶ On the other hand
- ▶ Even though
- ▶ In contrast
- ▶ Although
- ▶ Unlike
- ▶ Conversely
- ▶ Meanwhile

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- ▶ Examples on Page: 193 to 197
 - ▶ Assignment on Page: 198