

## **COMPARE AND CONTRAST PATTERN OF ESSAY DEVELOPMENT**

To **compare** two subjects is to draw attention to their similarities; to **contrast** is to focus on their differences

Whether a comparison-and-contrast paragraph stresses similarities or differences, it may be patterned in one of two ways:

1) The two subjects may be presented one at a time, block style, as in the following paragraph of contrast.....

*So Grant and Lee were in complete contrast, representing two diametrically opposed elements in American life. Grant was the modern man emerging beyond him, ready to come on the stage, was the great age of steel and machinery, of crowded cities and a restless burgeoning vitality. Lee might have ridden down from the old age of chivalry, lance in hand silken banner fluttering over his head. Each man was the perfect champion of his cause, drawing both his strengths and weaknesses from the people he led.*

( Bruce Catton, ***Grant and Lee : A Study in Contrasts*** )

2) Or a paragraph may proceed point by point, treating two subjects together, one aspect at a time. The following paragraph uses the point-by-point method to both compare and contrast.....

*Wilson brought qualities as unusual as those of Theodore Roosevelt to American politics. The two men had much in common: cultivation, knowledge, literacy skill, personal magnetism, relentless drive. But, where Roosevelt was unbuttoned and expansive, Wilson was reserved and cool; no one known to history ever called him "Woody" or "W.W". Both were lay preachers, but where Roosevelt was a revivalist, bullying his listeners to hit the sawdust trail, Wilson had the severe eloquence of a Calvinist divine. Roosevelt's egotism overflowed his personality; Wilson's was a hard concentrate within. Roosevelt's power lay in what he did, Wilson's in what he held in reserve.*

( Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., ***The Age Of Roosevelt*** )

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