



Compare and Contrast Essay

Compare and Contrast essays show similarities, differences, or both between two topics. The essay will examine how the two topics are alike, different, or both alike and different. Also, mention what is/are the point(s) of making a comparison and contrast essay. One point may be to prove that one subject is better than the other.

- Compare **or** Contrast (pick to write about similarities or differences)
- Compare **and** Contrast (write about similarities and differences) two versions of the same fairy tale.

While there are many ways of organizing a compare/contrast essay, the two basic formats: point by point and block method (subject by subject) are what is most common. Choose the format that will best represent your topic which can depend on how much you can write about each point or subject to form a solid body paragraph.

While the chart has three subjects and three points, you may have a greater number of points to compare or contrast, or you may even have just two subjects to write about. The length of the paper may also have a role in which format you choose to follow

Below are basic outline templates for each style.

Point by Point	Block Method/Subject by Subject
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intro: Thesis 2. Body1: Point 1 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Subject A b. Subject B c. Subject C 3. Body2: Point 2 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Subject A b. Subject B c. Subject C 4. Body3: Point 3 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Subject A b. Subject B c. Subject C 5. Conclusion: 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Intro: Thesis 2) Body1: Subject A <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Point 1 b. Point 2 c. Point 3 3) Body2: Subject B <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Point 1 b. Point 2 c. Point 3 4) Body3: Subject C <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Point 1 b. Point 2 c. Point 3 5) Conclusion:

Example Outlines:

Point by Point: Choosing a College	Block Method: Choosing a Major
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intro: Thesis: <i>When deciding whether to attend a college close to home or far away, it is helpful to consider living expenses, cost of tuition, and emotional support.</i> 2. Body1: Cost of Living <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. School Far away b. School Close to home 3. Body2: Cost of Tuition <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. School far away b. School close to home 4. Body3: Emotional Support <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. School far away b. School close to home 5. Conclusion 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Intro: Thesis: <i>Through analysis and comparison of the yearly salary, amount of work hours in a week, job security, advancement in a field, and overall happiness in what you do, choosing a major becomes easier.</i> 2) Body1: Science <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Salary b. Hours of work c. Job Security d. Advancement e. Happiness 3) Body2: Engineering <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Salary b. Hours of work c. Job Security d. Advancement e. Happiness 4) Body3: Liberal Arts <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Salary b. Hours of work c. Job Security d. Advancement e. Happiness 5) Conclusion

While it may be easy to point out obvious differences or similarities between two subjects, being able to examine two subjects critically will make for a much better paper.