

Paper No. 2 - Compare and Contrast

A **compare and contrast paper** identifies similarities (comparisons) and differences (contrast) between two or more objects, ideas, or people. The essay is written in **third person** and should be at least **five full paragraphs and a minimum of 650 words**, including a proper introduction and conclusion.

There are *two ways* to approach the essay:

1. Subject by subject: discuss each object/idea separately. This method requires you to write distinctly about one side, then distinctly about the other, and draw comparisons between the two.

- Argument for first subject
 - i. Description of subject
 - ii. Key details that define it
 - iii. Distinct from other subject
- Argument for second subject
 - i. Description of subject
 - ii. Key details that define it
 - iii. Distinct from other subject
- Argument for similarities
 - i. Where the two subjects overlap
 - ii. Draw superficial and deep comparisons

2. Point by point: discuss how the objects/ideas compare and contrast feature by feature. This method requires you to categorize three primary ideas that apply to both sides and draw comparisons/contrasts within each paragraph.

- Feature 1
 - i. Where they similar
 - ii. How they are different
- Feature 2
 - i. Where they similar
 - ii. How they are different
- Feature 3
 - i. Where they similar
 - ii. How they are different

Choose One:

Inner beauty vs. physical beauty

Flying in an airplane vs. sailing on a boat

Political campaign speeches vs. religious sermons

Early American discoverers/explorers vs. astronauts who landed on the moon

Living on a farm vs. living in an urban apartment

Music vs. literature/poetry

Being famous vs. being homeless

Living in a large family (five or more) vs. living in a small family (four or less)