

Compare and Contrast Paragraph Writing Guide

<p>Start by identifying the items you are comparing and state that they have similarities and differences. (Don't forget to indent your paragraph.)</p>	<p>_____ and _____ have some similarities and some differences.</p>
<p>Add to your paragraph by stating how both items are similar. You may use the transition word <i>first</i>.</p>	<p>First, _____ and _____ are the same because they both _____.</p>
<p>Add more similarities in as many sentences as are needed. Use transitional words like <i>second, additionally, in addition, another, moreover, also, next, furthermore, last, or finally</i>.</p>	<p>Additionally, they both _____.</p>
<p>Next, explain that the items have some differences. Choose one of the following transitional words or phrases: <i>on the other hand, contrarily, or conversely</i>.</p>	<p>On the other hand, _____ and _____ have some differences.</p>
<p>Add to your paragraph by stating how both items are different. You may use the transitional word <i>first</i>.</p>	<p>First, _____ (is/has/does) _____, but _____ (is not/has not/does not) _____.</p>
<p>Add more differences in as many sentences as are needed. Use transitional words like <i>second, additionally, in addition, another, moreover, also, next, furthermore, last, or finally</i>. After the comma, you use a contrasting word like <i>but, although, or yet</i>.</p>	<p>Second, _____ (is/has/does) _____, although _____ (is not/has not/does not) _____.</p>
<p>Conclude your paragraph by reminding your reader that the items you are writing about have some similarities and some differences. Signal your conclusion by using one of the following words or phrases: <i>clearly, obviously, assuredly, without doubt, or certainly</i>.</p>	<p>Clearly, _____ and _____ have similarities and differences.</p>
<p>Note: Be sure your paragraph looks like the one to the right. Do not leave extra white spaces or line spaces.</p>	<p>_____ and _____ have some similarities and some differences. First, _____ and _____ are the same because they both _____. Additionally, they both _____. On the other hand, _____ and _____ have some differences. First, _____ (is/has/does) _____, but _____ (is not/has not/does not) _____. Second, _____ (is/has/does) _____, although _____ (is not/has not/does not) _____. Clearly, _____ and _____ have similarities and differences.</p>

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Compare and Contrast Writing Rubric

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Sentences & Paragraphs	Sentences and paragraphs are complete, well-constructed and of varied structure.	All sentences are complete and well-constructed (no fragments, no run-ons). Paragraphing is generally done well.	Most sentences are complete and well-constructed. Paragraphing needs some work.	Many sentence fragments or run-on sentences OR paragraphing needs lots of work.
Grammar & spelling (conventions)	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar and/or spelling.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar and/or spelling	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar and/or spelling.
Content Accuracy	The assignment contains at least 5 accurate facts about the topic.	The assignment contains 3-4 accurate facts about the topic.	The assignment contains 1-2 accurate facts about the topic.	The assignment contains no accurate facts about the topic.
Neatness	Assignment is clean, not wrinkled, and is easy to read with no distracting error corrections. It was done with pride.	Assignment is neatly written is clean and not wrinkled and is easy to read with no distracting error corrections. It was done with care.	Assignment is crumpled or slightly stained. It may have 1-2 distracting error corrections. It was done with some care.	Assignment looks like it had been shoved in a pocket or locker. It may have several distracting error corrections. It looks like it was done in a hurry.
Opening	Strong main idea/ topic sentence is clear, concise, and identifies character, theme or issue.	Adequate main idea/ topic sentence identifies character, theme or issue.	Main idea/ topic sentence is unclear and doesn't address character, theme or issue.	Main idea/ Topic sentence is not clear
Support	Includes 3 or more well developed examples or reasons for each similarity or difference.	Includes at least 2 examples or reasons for each similarity or difference.	Includes at least 1 example or reason but some information maybe incorrect.	Provides little if any support for each similarity or difference.
Conclusion	States a thoughtful or logical conclusion based on similarities and differences.	States a conclusion based on similarities and differences.	Conclusion is evident but does not draw on any similarities or differences.	No evidence of any conclusion or summary.

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