

Compare and Contrast

Writers use the compare and contrast rhetorical mode to inform, to evaluate, and to clarify. Some assignments will require the writer to examine just the similarities, or just the differences of a particular subject. Other times the writer will examine both. After brainstorming a list of similarities and differences for your topic decide whether you will proceed point by point, or block by block.

The graphs that follow offer a way to outline your information for either format when writing your paper. The sample assignment compares and contrasts the subjects of Coke and Pepsi based on taste, fizziness, and price.

Point by Point

Topic Sentence:

1. Quality
 - a) Subject A
 - b) Subject B
2. Quality
 - a) Subject A
 - b) Subject B
3. Quality
 - a) Subject A
 - b) Subject B

Topic Sentence:

1. Taste
 - a) Coke
 - b) Pepsi
2. Fizziness
 - a) Coke
 - b) Pepsi
3. Price
 - a) Coke
 - b) Pepsi

Block by Block

Topic sentence:

1. Subject A
 - a) Quality 1
 - b) Quality 2
 - c) Quality 3
2. Subject B
 - a) Quality 1
 - b) Quality 2
 - c) Quality 3

Topic sentence:

1. Coke
 - a) Taste
 - b) Fizziness
 - c) Price
2. Pepsi
 - a) Taste
 - b) Fizziness
 - c) Price

Transition words help the reader to follow the discussion. Compare and contrast essays can get confusing without transition words. Transition words or phrases signal to the reader which quality or subject you are focusing on.

Likewise, similarly, rather, however, yet, on the contrary, otherwise, in comparison, on the other hand, at the same time, in contrast, despite, even though.

Topic:

Brainstorm Qualities and Features

Subject A	Subject B
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What are the similarities? Compare	What are the differences? Contrast
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Purpose: _____

Topic sentence: _____

Graphic Organizer - Compare and Contrast

	Subject A	Subject B
Point 1		
Point 2		
Point 3		