

APSU Writing Center

Compare and Contrast Essay

Compare and Contrast Essay

Compare: Identifying **similarities** between two or more subjects or ideas.

Contrast: Identifying **differences** between two or more subjects or ideas.

Comparing Transitional Words

- Also
- As well as
- Both
- Likewise
- Similarly
- Equally
- In the same way
- Just as
- Compared to
- In comparison
- Correspondingly
- Furthermore

Contrasting Transitional Words

- Although
- But
- Despite
- Even though
- However
- Nevertheless
- Nonetheless
- Rather
- Regardless
- In contrast
- Still
- While

How to write a Compare and Contrast Essay

Block Method

- Cover all main points of the initial topic, then address all points regarding the subsequent topics (and additional topics if comparing more than two).
- This method provides a clear and straightforward structure for the essay.

1. Start with a topic sentence introducing the subjects.
2. Address each topic separately, listing all relevant points.
 - a. Block 1: Discuss all the main points about the first topic.
 - i. Present one aspect of the first topic.
 - ii. Provide evidence and analysis.
 - iii. Transition to the next aspect of the first topic.
 - b. Block 2: Continue creating blocks for each topic you discuss.
3. Conclude with a summarizing sentence.

• **Outline Example**

- **Introduction:** Introduce the topics you'll be comparing and contrasting
- **Body Paragraphs:** You can have as many body paragraphs as necessary, each focusing on a different aspect of the subjects being compared.
 - **Block 1:** (iPhone)
 - A. Hardware and Performance
 - B. Design and Build Quality
 - C. Camera Quality
 - **Block 2:** (Samsung Galaxy)
 - A. Hardware and Performance
 - B. Design and Build Quality
 - C. Camera Quality
- **Conclusion:** Summarize the main points

APSU Writing Center
Compare/Contrast Essay

Point-by-Point Method

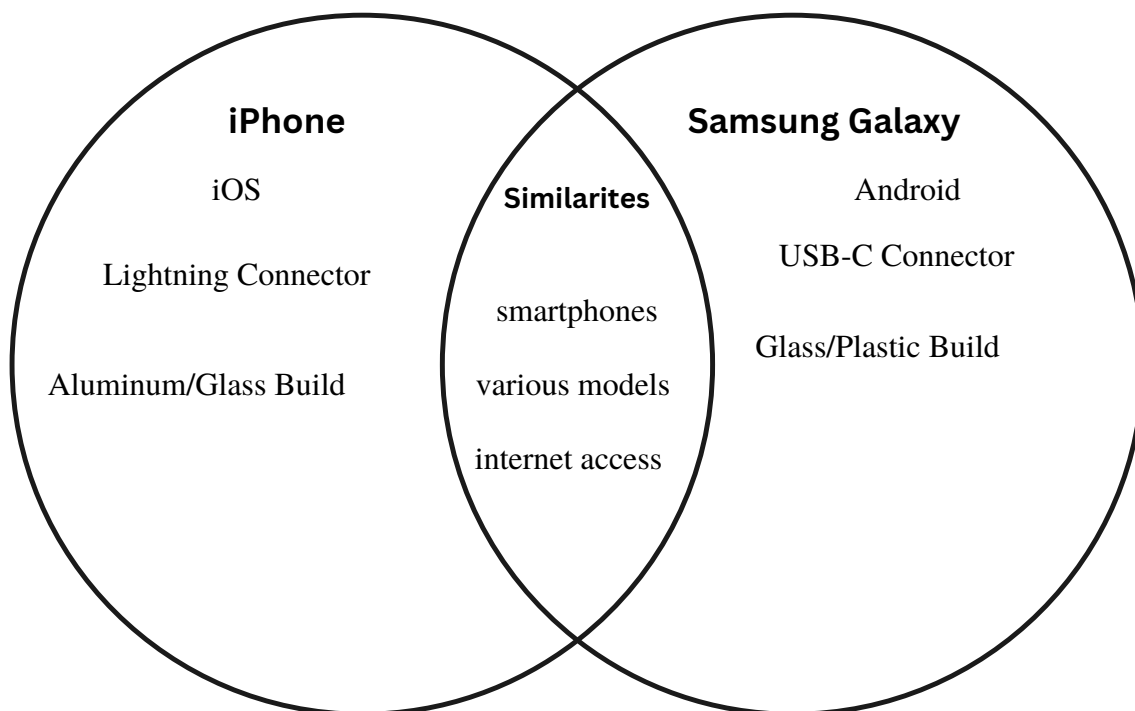
- Provides a side-by-side analysis of the two topics you will compare and contrast.
- Each subtopic will have its paragraph.
- Allows for direct comparison between specific points of the subjects.
- It reduces repetition and can be more concise.

Outline Example

- **Introduction and Thesis Statement**
- **Body Paragraphs**
 - **A. Hardware and Performance**
 - iPhone
 - Samsung Galaxy
 - **B. Design and Build Quality**
 - iPhone
 - Samsung Galaxy
 - **C. Camera Quality**
 - iPhone
 - Samsung Galaxy
- **Conclusion**

Venn Diagram or List

- Before writing your essay, write down the main similarities and differences between the topics you will compare and contrast. Consider making a Venn Diagram or Outline.
- **Example:**





APSU Writing Center
Compare/Contrast Essay

References

University of Arizona Global Campus Writing Center. "Compare/Contrast Assignments." University of Arizona Global Campus Writing Center, <https://writingcenter.uagc.edu/compare-contrast-assignments>. Accessed 28 March 2024.

University of Maryland Global Campus Writing Center. "Writing to Compare or Contrast." University of Maryland Global Campus Writing Center, <https://www.umgc.edu/current-students/learning-resources/writing-center/writing-resources/writing/writing-to-compare-or-contrast>. Accessed 28 March 2024.