

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

Contrasting Transitional Words

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

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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.

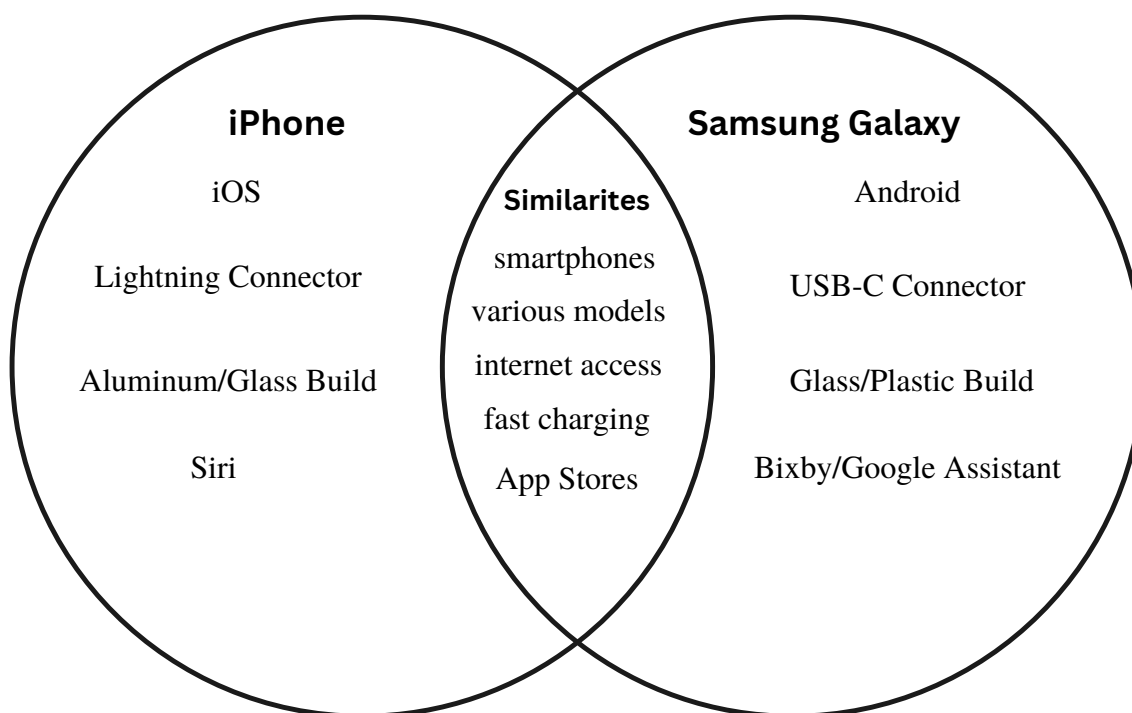
Outline Example

- **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:**



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Compare/Contrast Essay Outline

Title:

Due Date:

Course:

Instructor:

- **Introduction:** (Introduce topic, provide background, state thesis)

- **Paragraph 1:** (First comparison/contrast with examples)

- **Paragraph 2:** (Second comparison/contrast with examples)

- **Paragraph 3:** (Third comparison/contrast with examples)

- **Conclusion:** (Summarize points, restate thesis, discuss significance.)



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References

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