

**APSU Writing Center**  
Compare and Contrast Essay

### Compare and Contrast Essay

- A compare and contrast essay analyzes the similarities and/or differences between two or more subjects to reveal meaningful insights.
  - **Compare** focuses on **similarities**.
  - **Contrast** focuses on **differences**.

### Writing a Strong Thesis

- **Your thesis should:**
  - Clarify whether you are comparing, contrasting, or both.
  - Explain why the comparison is meaningful.
    - **Example:** Although iPhones and Samsung Galaxy phones offer similar core functions, they differ significantly in customization, operating systems, and design philosophy.

### Organizational Methods

#### Block Method

- Discuss all key aspects of one subject first, then address the same aspects of the second subject in the same order.
- Use for shorter essays or when differences are more important than similarities.

#### Structure:

- Introduction and Thesis Statement
- **Section 1:** Analyze all major points with evidence and explanation.
  - Example: The iPhone has a sleek design and user-friendly iOS interface.
- **Section 2:** Mirror the points from Section 1 for the second subject.
  - **Example:** The Samsung Galaxy offers similar performance but with more customization through Android.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize key findings and explain the overall significance of the comparison.

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**Point-by-Point Method**

- Compare subjects side by side by category.
- Use for deeper analysis and clearer direct comparison.

**Structure:**

- Introduction + Thesis
  - Introduce both subjects and present a thesis explaining the significance of the comparison.
- **Body Paragraph 1:** Feature A (Subject 1 vs. Subject 2)
  - **Example:** Hardware and Performance
  - Compare both phones' processing speed, storage options, and overall performance, using evidence and analysis to show key similarities or differences.
- **Body Paragraph 2:** Feature B (Subject 1 vs. Subject 2)
  - Example: Design and Build Quality
  - Analyze differences and similarities in materials, durability, and aesthetic design, supported with examples.
- **Body Paragraph 3:** Feature C (Subject 1 vs. Subject 2)
  - Example: Camera Quality
  - Compare camera features, image quality, and software enhancements, explaining why these differences matter.
- **Conclusion**
  - Summarize the major similarities and differences and explain what the comparison reveals.

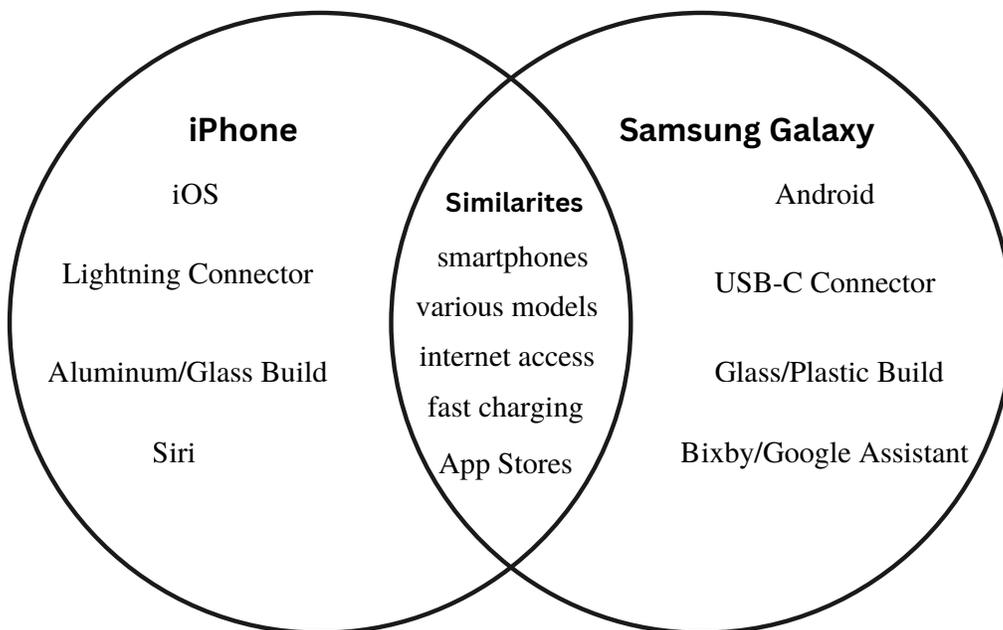
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**Transitional Words**

- To Compare:
  - Also
  - As well as
  - Both
  - Likewise
  - Similarly
  - Equally
  - In the same way
  - Just as
  - Compared to
  - In comparison
  - Correspondingly
  - Furthermore
- To Contrast:
  - Although
  - But
  - Despite
  - Even though
  - However
  - Nevertheless
  - Nonetheless
  - Rather
  - Regardless
  - In contrast
  - Still
  - While

**Prewriting Strategy**

- Before drafting:
  - List key similarities
  - List key differences
  - Consider creating a Venn diagram
  - Decide which organizational method works best



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Compare and Contrast Essay Outline

- **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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