Compare/Contrast Essay Rubric

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| **Thesis Paragraph**  **(1 point)** | **Below Basic**  *does not earn score* | **Basic**  *possibly earns score* | **Proficient**  *earns score* | **Advanced**  *Expanded Core* |
| Thesis does not appear to be present, is restating the prompt, or states a vague claim. Thesis does not address entire prompt, or off topic. Topic(s) fall outside the stated time period. | Thesis attempt is made; categories stated in thesis may be weak. Thesis portion addressing similarities/differences is relatively strong, but similarities/differences portion is vague or weak | Thesis is present and strong and clearly addresses both similarities and differences. Thesis clearly addresses all topics and categories requested in topic. | Thesis statement is clearly analytical and represents a sophisticated understanding of the material and argument |
| **Addressing Prompt**  **(2 points)** | Essay goes off topic and does not address prompt, or essay only addresses one part of prompt. | Essay makes attempts to address entire prompt but major parts are missing or weak/vague. Essay may make strong attempts to address most of prompt for one point. | Essay clearly addressed all topics and categories requested in prompt, and discusses both similarities and differences of those topics/categories thoroughly throughout essay. | Essay has a sophisticated and organized structure that incorporates accurate historical analysis and evidence that supports thesis while simultaneously analyzing all topics/categories requested in prompt |
| **Historical Evidence**  **(2 points)** | Essay lacks historical evidence, evidence is vague and weak, represents a confused understanding of historical topic, or is outside the scope of time period and/or topic. Inaccurate evidence is used throughout essay. | Historical evidence is present. Evidence used only partially supports a thesis statement (such as similarities but not differences). Some evidence mentioned is vague or confused, or irrelevant/inaccurate. | Multiple pieces of adequate historical evidence is present, addresses all aspects of the prompt, and supports all aspects of thesis as well as sub-arguments. | Provides abundant and sophisticated accurate historical evidence for all topics requested in prompt and thoroughly substantiates thesis as well as supports sub-arguments |
| **Relevant Direct Comparisons**  **(1 point)** | Direct comparison is missing or is an implied parallel comparison. Comparison is vague, or includes inaccurate description | At least one accurate direct comparison is present that is relevant to the topics/categories requested in the prompt. | Multiple accurate and relevant direct comparisons are present. | Accurate and relevant direct comparisons are abundant throughout the essay and add a depth of analysis that reflects a sophisticated understanding. |
| **Analysis**  **(1 point)** | Analysis is missing. Essay merely narratives a timeline or description of events, and presents no analysis of such events. Attempts at analysis may be made, but are vague, weak, or inaccurate portrayals | Essay includes some attempts to analyze evidence by stating the reasons behind events, or results of events, however the level of analysis may be somewhat vague, simplistic, weak, or irrelevant to the topics/categories requested in topic and stated in thesis. Analysis is not comparative, is one sided. | Comparative analysis is present that evaluates the causes and effects, the implication, and importance, of evidence as well as the relationships between historical evidence and historical narratives. | Ample and sophisticated analysis is present throughout essay |

Score:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_