

Comparison-Contrast Essays

There are two conventional ways of comparing and contrasting two or more things.

1. Point by Point Method— A single characteristic of the first item is compared with a single characteristic of the second item. Then each characteristic of both items is discussed. Transitional words or phrases are extremely important in this style, so that the paper does not appear “choppy.”

Introduction—Thesis and Definitions

Section I—1(A, B)

Section II—2(A, B)

Section III—3(A, B)

Conclusion—Connections, Inferences, Conclusions based on thesis/analysis

2. Block Method— All the characteristics of the first item may be stated in one section and the second item may be described in the second section. Then the characteristics of the first item may be compared and contrasted with the second item in the third section.

Introduction—Thesis and Definitions

Section I—A (1, 2, 3)

Section II—B (1, 2, 3)

Section III—1(A, B), 2(A, B), 3(A, B)

Conclusion—Connections, Inferences, Conclusions based on thesis/analysis

<p>Thesis Musts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. – AP 2. – Place/Time 3. – 3 Categories 4. – 1:2 Ratio
--

These two methods seem to be the most straight-forward. Other methods include:

1. Discussing the similarities of both items in the first section and then the differences in the second section.
2. All of the characteristics of the first item in the first section. Then the characteristics of the second item may be taken up one at a time and comparisons or contrasts with the characteristics of the first item may be made in the second section.

Introduction—Thesis and Definitions

Section I—A (1, 2, 3)

Section II—B1-A1, B2-A2, B3-A3

Conclusion—Connections, Inferences, Conclusions based on thesis/analysis

2010 Comp	Analyze similarities and differences in methods of political control in TWO of the following empires in the Classical period. Han China (206 BCE-220 CE) Mauryan/Gupta India (320 BCE-550 CE) Imperial Rome (31 BCE-476 CE)
2009 Comp	For the period from 1500 to 1830, compare North American racial ideologies and their effects on society with Latin American/Caribbean racial ideologies and their effects on society.
2008 Comp	Compare the emergence of nation-states in nineteenth-century Latin America with the emergence of nation-states in ONE of the following regions in the twentieth-century. Sub-Saharan Africa The Middle East
2007 Comp	Within the period from 1450 to 1800, compare the processes (e. g., political, social, economic) of empire building in the Spanish Empire with the empire-building processes in ONE of the following. The Ottoman Empire OR the Russian Empire
2006 Comp	Compare and contrast the goals and outcomes of the revolutionary process in TWO of the following countries, beginning with the dates specified. Mexico 1910 China 1911 Russia 1917
2005 Comp	Compare and contrast the political and economic effects of Mongol rule on TWO of the following regions: China Middle East Russia
2004 Comp	Compare and contrast how the First World War and its outcomes affected TWO of the following regions in the period from the war through the 1930s. East Asia Middle East South Asia
2003 Comp	Compare and contrast the roles of women in TWO of the following regions during the period from 1750 to 1914. East Asia Latin America Sub-Saharan Africa Western Europe
2002 Comp	Analyze and compare the differing responses of China and Japan to western penetration in the 19 th century.