Compare/ Contrast Checklist

- ⇒ If required, have you taken a stance?
- ⇒ Does your thesis clearly state the main point of the essay?
- ⇒ Do you include specific details of comparison and/or contrast?
- ⇒ Are your details arranged in a way that clearly support your thesis?
- ⇒ Have you used appropriate transition words to signal the next idea in your paper?
- ⇒ Do the transition words indicate whether comparison or contrast?
- ⇒ Have you used a point-by-point or subject-by-subject organization?
- ⇒ Do you restate the thesis and summarize the main points in the conclusion?

Works Cited

Fawcett, Susan. *Evergreen: A Guide to Writing with Readings.* 9th ed. Boston: Wadsworth/ Cengage, 2011. Print

Kirszner, Laurie and Stephen Mandell. *Patterns for College Writing: A Rhetorical Reader and Guide.* 9th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2004. Print.

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Compare/ Contrast

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Compare/ Contrast

Comparison and contrast are used to examine two or more people, places, or things. Instructors may ask for a comparison or contrast of two ideas. As a consumer, an individual might compare or contrast two different items for purchase.

What Is Comparison?

A comparison topic will ask you to describe how two or more things are alike or similar.

The thesis statement should clearly state that you are comparing and include the main idea of the essay.

i.e., Owning a puppy is like having a child because they both require constant supervision, teaching, and feeding.

What Is Contrast?

A contrast topic will ask you to describe how two or more things are different.

The thesis statement should clearly state that you are contrasting and include the main idea of the essay.

i.e., Owning a puppy is very different from having a child because a child requires much more care than a puppy.

NOTE: Oftentimes instructors will ask students to combine comparison and contrast. Also, instructors may ask students to choose between comparison or contrast. This will require you to take a stance. You may address the opposite stance, but the focus should be on only one.

Whichever topic you are given you will use either point-by-point or subject-by-subject organization.

Outline for Subject-by-Subject (aka Block):

In a subject-by-subject organization style —also commonly called block—the writer will write all the points for subject A and then all the comparable points for subject B. Essentially, each section of your paper will focus specifically on one subject before moving on to the next. This type of organization is most appropriate for shorter essays with few points.

Introduction:

- Thesis: make sure the thesis clearly shows what will be compared or contrasted and allows the reader to understand your main point

Body Paragraph: Subject A

- Point 1: the first idea you want to look at for that subject
- Point 2: the second idea you want to look at for that subject

Body Paragraph: Subject B

- Point 1: the first idea you want to look at that should mirror Point 1 under Subject A
- Point 2: the second idea you want to look at that should mirror Point 2 under Subject A

NOTE: Additional points may be necessary. Also, if additional body paragraphs are needed add them before the conclusion.

Conclusion:

- Wrap up your paper: Summarize the points made and restate the thesis.

Transitions Used in Comparison:

Also	Similarly
As well	Likewise
Equally	In the same way
In addition	In a similar way

Outline for a Point-by-Point:

In a point-by-point organization the writer will first make a point about subject A and then a comparable point about subject B within each body paragraph.

Introduction:

- Thesis: make sure the thesis clearly shows what will be compared or contrasted and allows the reader to understand your main point

Body Paragraph: Point 1: the first idea you want to look at for each subject

- Subject A
- Subject B

Body Paragraph: Point 2: the second idea you want to make about each subject

- Subject A
- Subject B

NOTE: Additional subjects may be necessary, Also, If additional body paragraphs are needed add them before the conclusion.

Conclusion:

- Wrap up your paper: Summarize the points made and restate the thesis.

Transitions Used in Contrast:

Conversely	Nevertheless
However	On the contrary
In contrast	On the one hand
In opposition	On the other hand
But, yet	Even though
Although	Whereas
While	Unlike

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