

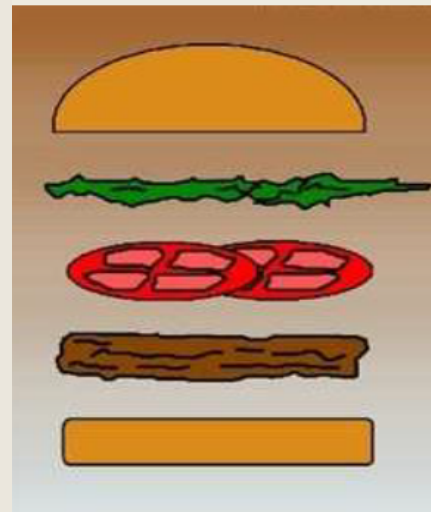


COMPARE AND CONTRAST ESSAY

Expository Essay Review

- 5 paragraphs: introduction, 3 body paragraphs, conclusion
- Thesis statement: contains your argument and 3 points

Structure of Expository Essay



1. Introduction
2. First Body Paragraph
3. Second Body Paragraph
4. Third Body Paragraph
5. Conclusion

TOTAL= 5 PARAGRAPHS

Compare and Contrast Essay

- Also called a **synthesis** essay – it makes connections across at least 2 texts
- Terminology:
 - “compare” – *look at similarities*
 - “contrast” – *look at differences*
 - “compare and contrast” – *look at similarities and/or differences. You must write about both texts in order to fulfill the requirements.*

Methods/Structures

- Block method
- Similarities-to-differences method
- Point-by-point method
 - *You should be comfortable using the point-by-point method by English 11 and English 12*

Subjects and Points

- **Subjects** – the two texts or topics that are the subject of your essay. They are what you are comparing and contrasting. These will be given to you in the essay prompt.
 - *Ex. “Compare and contrast the **Harry Potter books** to the **Harry Potter movies**.”*
- **Points of comparison/contrast** – the specific ways in which the subjects are similar or different. You will have to determine these yourself.
 - *Ex. The books and movies are similar and different in terms of **character**, **setting**, and **plot**.*

Block Structure

- two body paragraphs: one for each subject

Introduction

Subject 1
(HP books)

- Point #1 (character)
- Point #2 (setting)
- Point #3 (plot)

Subject 2
(HP movies)

- Point #1 (character)
- Point #2 (setting)
- Point #3 (plot)

Conclusion

Similarities-to-Differences Structure

- two body paragraphs: one for similarities and one for differences

Introduction

Similarities among HP
books and **movies**

Differences between
HP **books** and **movies**

Conclusion

Point-by-Point Structure

Introduction

Point #1
(character)

- Subject 1 (HP books)
- Subject 2 (HP movies)

Point #2
(setting)

- Subject 1 (HP books)
- Subject 2 (HP movies)

Point #3
(plot)

- Subject 1 (HP books)
- Subject 2 (HP movies)

Conclusion



Do not
change
the
order
here!

Compare and Contrast Essay: Summary

- The compare and contrast essay is a type of expository essay. It is also called a synthesis essay because you synthesize information from two or more sources.
- You **must** discuss both texts and relate them to one another. Do not write about them in isolation!
- Practice: Compare and contrast the benefits/drawbacks of eating fast food versus eating home-cooked meals.

Writing a Compare and Contrast Essay

Step 1. Brainstorm.

Step 2. Find points of comparison/points of contrast.

Step 3. Pick a structure and organize your information.

Step 4. Write your thesis statement.

Step 5. Write your essay.

Your Thesis Statement

- Your thesis statement for a compare and contrast essay must still be specific!
- ☹️ **Weak:** The Harry Potter books and movies have many similarities and differences.
 - *Everything is similar and different in many ways! This thesis statement tells us nothing.*
- 😊 **Better:** The Harry Potter books and movies show similarities in terms of plot and setting but are different in their depictions of some characters.

In-class Synthesis Essay

- Compare and contrast the dystopian characteristics of two of the short stories we've read:
 - “The Veldt” by Ray Bradbury
 - “Harrison Bergeron” by Kurt Vonnegut
 - “There Will Come Soft Rains” by Ray Bradbury
- Please review your notes and the PowerPoint on dystopian literature
- Subjects = the two short stories of your choice
- Topics = dystopian characteristics (choose 3)