



WRITING A COMPARE AND CONTRAST ESSAY

A compare and contrast essay, as the name suggests, is used to analyze the similarities and differences between two or more things: ideas, concepts, items, places, etc.

In your essay, you can focus on:

- the similarities between the two items,
- the differences between the two items, or
- the similarities and differences between the two items.

Like all essays, a compare and contrast essay contains three parts:

- **Introduction:** where you give some background information and explain your thesis statement
- **Body:** where you actually list the similarities and/or differences of your subjects
- **Conclusion:** where you wrap up and summarize your points

PATTERNS OF ORGANIZATION

Although the introduction and conclusion paragraphs of a compare and contrast essay remain the same, there are two main ways that you can organize your compare-contrast body paragraphs:

1. Block Method (subject by subject)

In the block method, the body paragraphs are organized according to the subjects. The block arrangement discusses *one of the subjects in the first body paragraph* and *the other subject in the second*. All the ideas provided in the first paragraph are also provided in the second paragraph in the same order.

For example, if you are comparing iPhone and Samsung, write about iPhone in the first block and then move on to write about Samsung in the second block.

If you are using the block method, organize your essay in the following way:

Introduction: Introduce the subjects you'll be comparing and/or contrasting

Block 1: (iPhone)

- a. Operating system
- b. Price

Block 2: (Samsung)

- a. Operating system
- b. Price

Conclusion: Summarize the main points



Let's see how it works:

A. Introduction Paragraph

Introduce the two subjects you will compare and contrast

Provide some background information.

End with a thesis statement (a sentence that clearly states what you will compare and contrast)

Smartphones have become an essential part of our lives, and two of the most well-known brands are Apple's iPhone and Samsung's series. Both brands produce high-quality smartphones with advanced technology, but they have key differences. *This essay will compare and contrast iPhone and Samsung in terms of their operating system and price.*

Body Paragraph 1 (Block 1)

About iPhone : Operating system
Price

One of the key features of iPhone is its iOS operating system, which is simple, secure, and regularly updated. As a result, users enjoy a smooth experience with a clean and user-friendly interface. However, compared to other systems, it offers less customization, which may be a drawback for those who prefer more control over their device. In addition, strong security measures make it less vulnerable to malware and cyber threats. In terms of price, this smartphone is significantly more expensive than many competitors. This is due to its premium materials and high-end brand positioning, which contribute to its luxury appeal.

Body Paragraph 2 (Block 2)

About Samsung : Operating system
Price

Samsung smartphones use Android, a system known for its flexibility and customization. Unlike iOS, Android allows users to change themes, install widgets, and personalize their devices. However, because Android is open source, it may be less secure than iOS. Samsung offers a wider range of models, from budget-friendly phones to high-end flagship devices. This makes Samsung more affordable for people with different budgets. Users can choose between low-cost models or premium devices like the Samsung Galaxy S series.

Concluding Paragraph

Summarize the main points.
Restate the thesis in different words.
End with a final thought or opinion.

In conclusion, both iPhone and Samsung have strong features, but they are designed for different users. iPhones are best for those who want a simple and secure system and are willing to pay a high price. Samsung, on the other hand, is perfect for users who want customization and a variety of price options. The best choice depends on the user's preferences and budget.





2. Point-by-Point Method

In the point-by-point method, the body paragraphs are organized according to the ideas. The point-by-point arrangement discusses a particular point about the first object and then immediately discusses the same point about the second object.

TOPIC: iPhone vs. Samsung

If you are using the point-by-point method, organize your essay in the following way:

Introduction Paragraph: Introduce the subjects you'll be comparing and/or contrasting

Body 1: Operating System

iPhone

Samsung Galaxy

Body 2: Price

iPhone

Samsung Galaxy

Concluding Paragraph: Summarize the main points

Let's write the same topic with Point-by-Point Method:

A. Introduction Paragraph

Introduce the two subjects you will compare and contrast

Provide some background information.

End with a thesis statement (a sentence that clearly states what you will compare and contrast)

Smartphones have become an essential part of our lives, and two of the most well-known brands are Apple's iPhone and Samsung's series. Both brands produce high-quality smartphones with advanced technology, but they have key differences. *This essay will compare and contrast iPhone and Samsung in terms of their operating system and price.*

Body Paragraph 1

Operating System: iPhone
Samsung

One of the biggest differences between iPhone and Samsung is their operating system. iPhones use iOS, which is simple, secure, and regularly updated. Apple's closed system ensures a smooth user experience and better security. However, iOS offers less customization compared to other systems. On the other hand, Samsung smartphones use Android, which is highly customizable. Users can install widgets, change themes, and modify their settings freely. However, Android is less secure because it allows third-party applications.

Body Paragraph 2

Operating System: iPhone
Samsung

Another major difference between iPhone and Samsung is price. iPhones are more expensive, even for base models. Apple focuses on premium materials and a luxury brand image, which makes their devices more costly. Additionally, iPhones have limited models, mainly high-end versions. In contrast, Samsung provides a wider range of price options. Samsung has both budget-friendly models and premium flagship phones. This makes Samsung more accessible to larger audience, from students to professionals.



Concluding Paragraph

Summarize the main points.
Restate the thesis in different words.
End with a final thought or opinion.

In conclusion, both iPhone and Samsung have strong features, but they are designed for different users. iPhones are best for those who want a simple and secure system and are willing to pay a high price. Samsung, on the other hand, is perfect for users who want customization and a variety of price options. The best choice depends on the user's preferences and budget.

iPhone vs. Samsung: A Battle of Innovation and Value

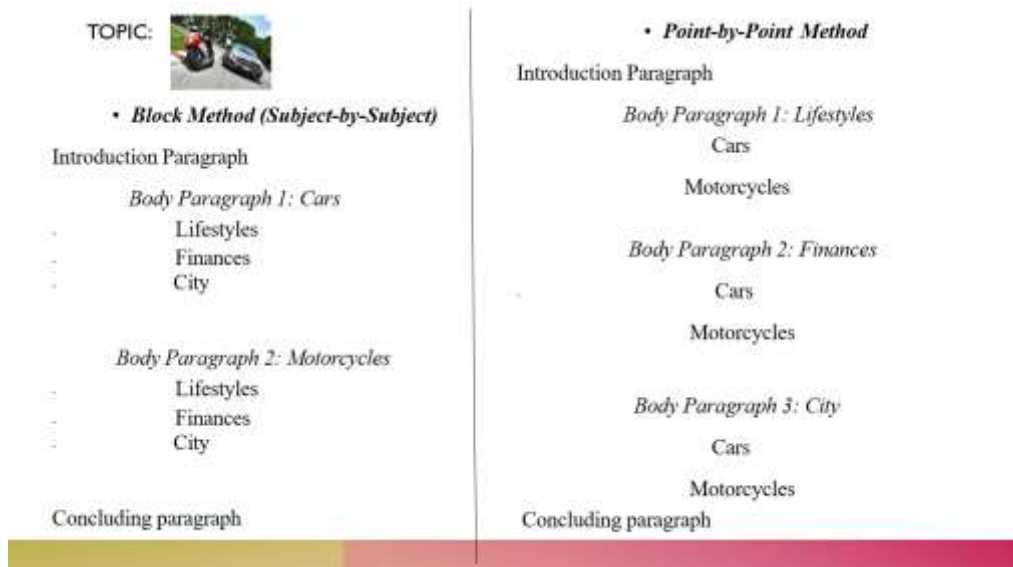
Smartphones have become an essential part of our lives, and two of the most well-known brands are Apple's iPhone and Samsung's Galaxy series. Both brands produce high-quality smartphones with advanced technology, but they have key differences. This essay will compare and contrast iPhone and Samsung in terms of their operating system and price.

One of the biggest differences between iPhone and Samsung is their operating system. iPhones use iOS, which is simple, secure, and regularly updated. Apple's closed system ensures a smooth user experience and better security. However, iOS offers less customization compared to other systems. On the other hand, Samsung smartphones use Android, which is highly customizable. Users can install widgets, change themes, and modify their settings freely. However, Android is less secure because it allows third-party applications.

Another major difference between iPhone and Samsung is price. iPhones are more expensive, even for base models. Apple focuses on premium materials and a luxury brand image, which makes their devices more costly. Additionally, iPhones have limited models, mainly high-end versions. In contrast, Samsung provides a wider range of price options. Samsung has both budget-friendly models and premium flagship phones. This makes Samsung more accessible to a larger audience, from students to professionals.

In conclusion, both iPhone and Samsung have strong features, but they are designed for different users. iPhones are best for those who want a simple and secure system and are willing to pay a high price. Samsung, on the other hand, is perfect for users who want customization and a variety of price options. The best choice depends on the user's preferences and budget.

One more sample:





COMPARATIVE AND CONTRASTIVE STRUCTURES

To make your compare and contrast essay flow better, you should use special transition words and phrases. They will add variety and improve your paper overall.

1. Transitional Expressions in Phrases

All of the transitions in this group need to be followed by a noun. The phrase in which they occur is often used at the beginning of a sentence and is generally followed by a comma.

A. Phrases to Show Similarity

Similar to smartphones, laptops have also transformed how we work and communicate.

Like many students, I find it easier to focus when I listen to music while studying.

B. Phrases to Show Difference

Different from his classmates, Mark prefers individual activities like running and swimming.

Unlike / In contrast to / Compared to / In comparison to / Compared with other methods, this technique is more efficient and easier to learn.

Transitional Expressions Between Sentences

The transitions in this group generally occur between two independent clauses. When they do, they must be preceded by either a period or a semicolon and followed by a comma. This group has the greatest number of words and phrases.

A) Transitions to Show Similarity

The manager was impressed with the team's performance. **Likewise, / In the same way, / Similarly**, the clients were satisfied with the results.

B) Transitions to Show Difference

Some people prefer a busy city lifestyle. **In contrast, / However, / On the other hand, / Conversely**, others enjoy the peace and quiet of rural areas.

Sarah is very organized and always on time. John, **on the other hand/however**, tends to be more relaxed and flexible with deadlines.

2. Some Others:

Whereas/ While Maria is very outgoing and loves socializing, Mark is more introverted and enjoys quiet activities.

The first movie was action-packed and thrilling, **while/whereas** the second one was slow-paced and dramatic.

Although coffee is known for its energizing effects, tea offers a more calming experience.



CHECK YOUR ESSAY

		✓
Introduction	Does your introduction provide background information about the subjects you're comparing/contrasting?	
	Have you clearly stated your thesis statement and whether you're focusing on similarities, differences, or both?	
Body Paragraphs	For Block Method:	
	Body Paragraph 1: Does it cover all key points about the first subject?	
	Body Paragraph 2: Does it cover the same key points about the second subject in the same order?	
	For Point-by-Point Method:	
	Body Paragraph 1: Does it compare the first point (e.g., lifestyles) for both subjects?	
	Body Paragraph 2: Does it compare the second point (e.g., finances) for both subjects?	
Transitions	Body Paragraph 3 (optional): Does it compare the third point (e.g., city) for both subjects?	
Transitions	Have you used appropriate transitional expressions to show similarities? (e.g., "similarly", "in the same way")	
	Have you used appropriate transitional expressions to show differences? (e.g., "in contrast", "however")	
Conclusion	Have you summarized the main points of your essay without introducing new information?	
	Have you restated your thesis statement in a new way?	
	Does your conclusion leave a lasting impression?	



SAMPLE ESSAY 1

TOPIC: Printed books vs E-books (Block Method)

Introduction Paragraph

Thesis Statement: This essay will compare and contrast printed books and e-books in terms of accessibility and environmental impact.

Body (Block) 1: Printed Books

Accessibility

- No need for electronic devices
- Easy to share or donate

Environmental impact

- Production requires paper, leading to deforestation and resource use.

Body (Block) 2: E-books

Accessibility

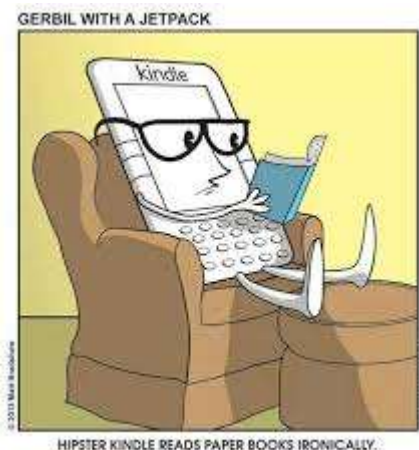
- Immediate access to books, ideal for travel.

Environmental impact

- Reduce paper use.
- Contribute to e-waste and energy consumption

Concluding Paragraph

Both formats have benefits and drawbacks in accessibility and environmental impact. Both will continue to play a role in future reading habits.





Which One to Choose?

In today's digital age, the way we read books has evolved. With the rise of e-books, readers now have to choose between the traditional printed books and the more modern electronic format. Each offers different qualities for the readers. **This essay will compare and contrast printed books and e-books in terms of accessibility and environmental impact.**

To start with, printed books are easy to access but they affect the environment through paper production. Printed books don't require any electronic device or internet connection, which makes them convenient in any setting. Therefore, you can enjoy your reading activity whenever and wherever you want. Additionally, printed books are simple to share or donate. This increases their accessibility. However, the production of printed books requires paper, leading to deforestation and resource consumption. Despite being recyclable and reusable, the environmental cost of creating printed books is still significant.

On the other hand, e-books offer instant access, but they contribute to electronic waste and energy use. E-books can be downloaded immediately, allowing readers to start a book without waiting for shipping or visiting stores. Furthermore, a single device can store thousands of books. It is ideal for those with limited space. While e-books reduce paper use, their environmental impact comes from the production and disposal of electronic devices. Additionally, charging e-readers consumes energy, which contributes to environmental concerns.

In conclusion, both printed books and e-books have distinct qualities when it comes to accessibility and environmental impact. While printed books are easy to access without technology, they require resources to produce. Conversely, e-books provide immediate access and reduce paper use but are linked to electronic waste and energy consumption. Ultimately, both formats will likely continue to play a role in the future of reading.



SAMPLE ESSAY 2

TOPIC: Cats vs. dogs as pets (Point-by-Point Method)

Introduction Paragraph

Thesis Statement: The purpose of this essay is to compare and contrast the differences between cats and dogs as pets. The three main differences are pet management, cost, and accommodations.

Body Paragraph 1: Management

Cats

- Independent, need less attention, can stay alone for long periods

Dogs

- Require more attention, cannot be left alone for long, may get anxious or destructive

Body Paragraph 2: Cost

Cats

- Less expensive to care for, lower food and healthcare costs, less likely to cause property damage

Dogs

- More expensive, larger food intake, higher healthcare costs, prone to destructive behavior leading to extra costs for repairs.

Body Paragraph 3: Accommodations

Cats

- Low space requirements, suitable for smaller living spaces (e.g., apartments), don't require outdoor areas.

Dogs

- Cats are less demanding in terms of safety, while dogs require more accommodations for their well-being.

Concluding Paragraph





All Lovely but Different

"The benefits of pet ownership are real - physically, mentally and psychologically," confirms Dr. Daniel Joffe, a veterinarian who specializes in companion animals. Unlike relationships with humans, which can sometimes be difficult and a source of stress, owning a pet can significantly improve overall health. The question is about what to keep as a pet? A dog or a cat? **The purpose of this essay is to highlight the differences between cats and dogs as pets. The three main differences are pet management, cost, and accommodations.**

The first difference between cats and dogs is management. Cats are relatively independent animals, which makes them easier to care for, especially for people with busy schedules. They do not need constant attention and are content to stay home alone for long periods, an ideal thing for owners who may be away at work or on vacation. In contrast, dogs need more attention and cannot be left alone for long periods. They tend to become anxious or even destructive if left alone for too long. For this reason, dog owners need to make arrangements for someone to take care of their pets: a pet sitter, a dog walker, or a pet resort.

The second difference is cost. Cats are generally less expensive to care for compared to dogs. They eat less food, and their healthcare expenses, such as vaccinations and vet visits, tend to be lower. Cats are also less likely to cause costly damage to furniture or property, reducing the overall cost of maintenance. Dogs, however, are more expensive to care for in many aspects. Their food intake is greater, and they may require additional expenses for things like grooming and special treatments. Moreover, dogs often engage in destructive behavior, such as chewing on furniture or damaging gates and fences. This can result in extra costs for repairs and replacements.

The final difference is accommodation. Cats don't take up much space. They do not need a large area to roam around and can be happy in smaller living spaces, such as apartments. Cats also do not need outdoor areas to run, as they are generally content staying indoors. As a result, they do not require elaborate safety measures to protect them from potential harm. Dogs, however, typically need more space. Many dogs enjoy running around in a yard, and if they don't have one, they can become restless and upset. Moreover, dogs often need to be contained within a fence or other safe barrier to prevent them from running away or causing disruptions.

All in all, when considering adopting a pet, you must consider the management, cost and accommodations that the pet would require. Owners who don't think about these aspects will often not care for their pet in a safe manner.

Taken and adapted



SAMPLE ESSAY 3

TOPIC: Taking private lesson vs. Learning in a classroom.

Would You Take Your Lesson Alone?

Thanks to technological and social advances, people have changed their way of living, entertaining, working and studying. These changes have created different forms of learning and teaching methods. Some students prefer taking private lessons whereas some others prefer learning in a classroom. **Even though there are many similarities between private lessons and classroom lessons, there are also important differences.**

There are significant similarities between learning through private lessons and classroom studies. The first similarity is to have a schedule. For example, students, both in private lessons and classroom, have to follow a certain schedule. Subjects are taught according to a program, not randomly. The second similarity is that students have to do homework in both situations. If not, they cannot improve their knowledge about that lesson. In brief, having a certain schedule and doing homework are important similarities between private lessons and classroom studies.

Despite similarities, private lessons and classroom studies have some differences as well. The first difference is to ask questions comfortably. In private lessons, students can ask their questions comfortably while students in a classroom cannot do this because of the high number of students in a classroom. Physical comfort is the second difference between these two forms. Private lessons can be held in a comfortable room or even in a café. However, in a classroom, there are desks and chairs, which aren't usually very comfortable. As you can see, asking questions comfortably and physical comfort are visible differences between these two learning forms.

To sum up, there are not only similarities but also differences between private lessons and classroom studies. As far as I am concerned, both forms of learning can work as long as students are determined to achieve their goals.

Taken and adapted.

