



## WRITING A COMPARATIVE DESCRIPTION

Writing a comparative description using maps in academic writing involves the utilization of maps as visual aids to illustrate and analyze the similarities and differences between two or more geographic regions, or concepts.

Here are some key points to consider when writing a comparative description using maps in academic writing:

**Purpose:** The purpose of using maps in a comparative description is to visually represent data between different subjects or regions. Maps can provide a clear and concise overview of the similarities and differences, enabling readers to grasp the information more easily.

**Selection of Maps:** Maps convey the information you want to compare. Maps can vary in terms of thematic focus and type. For example, you might use political maps to compare the administrative divisions of two countries, or thematic maps to analyze the distribution of a specific phenomenon like population density or climate patterns.

**Interpretation and Analysis:** When incorporating maps into your comparative description, focus on interpreting and analyzing the information they present. Claims are used to discuss the significance of these patterns and their implications for the subjects or regions being compared. Claims are sentences that are used to say that whether something is true or false. There must be some degree of argument. Claims are divided into three types:

**Claim of fact** (involve identifying specific problems)  
Greenland's ice is melting at increasing rates due to human activity.

**Claim of value** (involve a judgement or evaluation)  
The well-being of the Arctic is more important than the mineral resources beneath the ice.

**Claim of policy** (involves a solution or series of competing solutions)  
We should work harder to limit the causes of global warming than on extracting the Arctic's mineral wealth.

Claim of fact is defined as a counterclaim.

Claim of value is defined as a claim on behalf of another person.

Claim of policy is defined as a reinforcement to the claim.

**Supporting Text:** Use clear and concise language to describe the features, trends, and relationships observed in the maps. While developing a comparison essay to compare two maps, the writers usually use the future passive voice.

**Data Sources and Reliability:** Ensure that the maps and data used are from reliable and credible sources. Provide proper citations and references for the maps to maintain academic integrity.

**Organization:** Organize your writing in a logical and coherent manner.

EXAMPLE:

**Read the model comparative short essay and decide which paragraphs do the following things?**



- a. summarizing the changes
- b. discussing the removal of natural features
- c. discussing the new construction/plan
- d. restating the writing prompt

### Transforming a 25-Square-Mile Land Area

#### INTRODUCTION

The two maps show how an area of land looks now and how it might look in the future. This area is about 25 square miles with hills in the north and a river running through it. The main changes include removing many trees, building transportation systems and structures, like houses and stores. The purpose of this essay is to explore the current state of the land area with the proposed development plan, and their potential impacts on the environment and community.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

The two maps show the same area of land. The first map shows the area the way it is today, and the second map shows a proposal for development of the area.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

The area is approximately 25 square miles, and has some hills to the north and a river running 25 Miles through the center. The most noticeable difference is the removal of many trees and natural areas and the construction of transportation systems and buildings.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

The area is currently a forest. In the development proposal, most trees will be removed. While the river will remain unchanged, a small lake in the southwest will be filled in. Houses will be constructed on some of the open areas as well. Houses and stores will occupy much of the area.

4. \_\_\_\_\_

In addition, roads and a railroad will be constructed. The main road will run from east to west, and there will be a bridge over the river. A railroad will be built parallel to the road, and a bridge over the river will also be built. There will be houses and other buildings along some of the smaller roads.

#### CONCLUSION

In summary, the two maps illustrate the proposed transformation of a 25-square-mile forested area. This plan involves removing trees, constructing roads, buildings, and a railroad. These changes will have a significant impact on the environment and the area's overall landscape, prompting the need for thoughtful consideration of its potential effects and advantages.

#### ANSWER KEY for EXAMPLE

1. D	2. A	3. B	4. C
------	------	------	------

#### WRITING TASK

You are going to write a comparative description in response to the prompt given on page 96, unit 5.

*taken and adapted*