

Name: _____ Date: _____

COMPARISON/ CONTRAST ESSAY



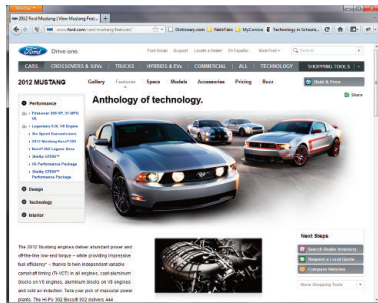
A **comparison/contrast essay** describes how two things are similar (comparison) and different (contrast).

WHY
do this,
anyway?



When you see something new, the first thing your mind does is try to figure out how the new thing is similar to things you already know.

Then, once you've figured out what the new thing is, you want to know how the new thing is different from the things you already know.



That's why there are comparison/contrast essays—they help us learn really efficiently.

Think about auto manufacturers' web sites. When you look at the new car models, they tell you what great features from before are still there (awesome sound system, tuned suspension), and what new features are there for the first time (cool forged wheels, higher-horsepower engine).

See? They compare what's the same and contrast what's new!

Now, you're going to do the same thing. If you've had a hard time with doing this sort of essay before, lighten up. You're about to learn an easy way of doing it. In a few steps, you'll write more—and better—than you ever did before.

STEP 1 Write both things:

What are the two things you're comparing and contrasting?

and

STEP 2 Brainstorm how they're the same

On this page, write everything you can that describes how the two things are similar or the same. Don't worry about spelling or writing complete sentences, but be sure you can understand what you write. Use language like this:

- *both grapes and bananas are fruit*
- *they're both soft and nutritious*
- *both are made into other foods, like jelly and cakes*

STEP 3

Write a paragraph from your notes

Use your list of notes from page 2 to write a paragraph that describes how the two things are similar or the same. The *Lists to Sentences* Gradebooster shows you how.

A large rectangular writing area with a light gray background and rounded corners. It features a vertical pink margin line on the left side and horizontal blue lines for writing.



STEP 4 Brainstorm how they're different

On this page, write everything you can that describes how the two things are different. Don't worry about writing complete sentences, but be sure you can understand what you write. Use language like this:

- *grapes have a thin skin and bananas have a thick skin*
- *you can make jelly out of grapes but not out of bananas*
- *bananas grow in trees, while grapes grow on vines*

STEP 5 Write a paragraph from your notes

Use your list of notes from page 2 to write a paragraph that describes how the two things are different.

A large writing area with horizontal blue lines and a vertical pink margin line on the left side. The area is intended for writing a paragraph.

STEP 6 Write summary sentence #1:

Write one sentence that describes the first thing:

STEP 7 Write summary sentence #2:

Write one sentence that describes the second thing:

STEP 8 Write a personal preference statement:

Which did you like better? Why? Describe in one sentence.

STEP 9 Follow this template:

Copy what's in *black, like this*, word for word. Replace **[text in blue like this]** with what you already wrote, above. Read what you're writing, and use common sense. Add, delete, or change words as needed to ensure that your writing makes sense.

Compose your paper (using this template) on separate sheets of writing paper, and turn in your separate paper along with this completed packet.

The template starts on the next page.

This paper will compare and contrast ¹ [insert name of first thing] and ¹ [insert name of second thing].

⁶ [insert summary sentence #1] ⁷ [insert summary sentence #2]

First, I'll describe how the two things are similar. ³ [insert paragraph from step 3].

Now, I'll describe how the two things are different. ⁵ [insert paragraph from step 5]

⁸ [insert personal preference statement] I hope you've enjoyed reading this comparison and contrast between [first thing] and [second thing].

Here's an example of a very simple, short comparison/contrast paper. This is just an example to give you an idea of what to do. Your writing will have much more detail.

This paper will compare and contrast bananas and grapes. Bananas are soft, yellow fruits that you peel before eating. Grapes are sweet round fruits that can be made into raisins. First, I'll describe how the two things are similar. Both grapes and bananas are fruits, and both are made into other foods like breads and jams. Also, both of them have skin that you can peel. Now, I'll describe how the two things are different. Bananas have a thick skin, but grapes have a thin skin. Grapes taste sweeter than bananas. You can make jelly and jam from grapes, but I've never seen jelly made from bananas. Bananas are much bigger than grapes. Overall, I like grapes better because they're sweeter and taste better on a hot summer day. I hope you've enjoyed reading this comparison and contrast between bananas and grapes.

Now, you do it!

Work with your teacher to compose your own comparison/contrast paper on separate sheets of paper. Submit this completed document along with your completed paper.



This score	30	35	40	45	50
Equals a %	60	70	80	90	100

Your total score: out of 50. Here's why:

0	6	8	10	This fully-completed document is submitted with your paper
0	6	8	10	Written paper follows the format of this document, with all sections included
0	6	8	10	Detailed description of the similarities of the two things (comparison)
0	6	8	10	Detailed description of the differences between the two things (contrast)
0	6	8	10	Sentences are grammatically correct

impressive: You did an excellent job, making few mistakes. Keep up the high-quality work.

adequate: You did it. Keep working to improve accuracy and quality. Check your work more carefully.

attempted: You tried to do it. You need more practice. Work with your teacher to get better at it.

nonexistent: You didn't do it. Were the directions unclear? Did you forget to do it? Talk with your teacher.

Additional comments: