

Let's Review Compare / Contrast Paragraph Structure:



- **Title**
- **Introduction Sentence-** Explains what your paragraph will be about
- **Similarities-** 2-3 sentences explaining what is alike
- **Differences-** 2-3 sentences explaining what is different
- **Conclusion Sentence-** End the paragraph with a personal statement, prediction/hope, a snappy clincher.

Paragraph Review:

Opening sentence names the two subjects and states that they have many important (or interesting) similarities and differences.

Continue discussing similarities only using compare/contrast cue words such as like, similar to, and also for each comparison.

Use a transition word to show you are switching to differences. (e.g. Despite all these similarities, [these two subjects] differ in many ways.)

Then describe all the differences, using compare/contrast cue words such as *unlike*, *however*, and *on the other hand* for each comparison.

End with a personal statement, a prediction, or another snappy clincher. (Conclusion Sentence)



	5 pts- WOW	3-4 pts- Almost there	2 pts-Getting there	1 pt-keep working
Content	Introduction states topic in an interesting manner. 2 similarities and 2 differences. Satisfying conclusion	Introduction states topic. 3 similarities and or differences in total. Conclusion sentence.	Lacks an introduction. Only on similarity and one difference. No conclusion	No introduction Topic is not compared/contrasted but merely discussed. No conclusion
Organization	Logical sequence with transitions between similarities and differences.	Some sequence of events but lacking order in presentation of similarities and differences.	Similarities and differences jump around and no transitions.	Reads more like a list of elements than a paragraph. No organization or transitions evident.
Focus	Focused on topic. All details support the main idea.	Focused on topic. Most details support the main idea.	May go off topic or provide details that do not adhere to the main idea.	Frequently off topic and few details provided.
Style/word choice	Sentences vary in structure and word choice is accurate and descriptive.	Sentences vary in structure but word choice lacks descriptors.	All simple sentences with little description.	Simple sentences or incomplete phrases are choppy or irrelevant.
Conventions	Correct grammar, spelling and capitalization are used throughout the composition	The composition contains no more than 4 errors in grammar, spelling or punctuation.	The composition contains no more than 6 errors in grammar, spelling or punctuation	The composition contains seven or more errors in spelling, grammar or punctuation