



Course: English composition II

Course code: ENGL 102

Topic: Comparison or contrast paragraphs

Skill: Composition Skill

The comparison paragraph points to the similarities between two subjects and discusses how they are similar and lists a few examples.

In the contrast paragraph, two subjects are discussed as how they are different.

Support ideas to write a comparison or contrast paragraph:

Ask yourself why you are writing this paragraph and what the message you want to be transmitted with this paragraph is.

Controlling idea- A "controlling" idea is an idea that makes a reader ask a question. Any time a topic sentence has a good "controlling" idea, the reader will have his or her own curiosity raised.

Base of comparison-what are you basing the comparison of the two subjects on, why are you comparing them?

Organize by point of comparison-Must present all the comparison between the subjects first.

Contrast with "then" and "now"-Write contrasting with "then" to explain how the subject used to be and with "now" for how it currently is

1. Comparison

a. Key words

- In the same way
- By the same token
- Similarity
- In like manner
- Likewise
- In similar fashion

b. Coordinators

- And
- but

c. Transitional

- As
- Just as
- Both...and
- Also
- In the same manner
- In addition

d. Subordinators

- after
- although
- as
- as if
- as long as

Organizational method

- Point of contrast- Must present all the comparison between the subjects first.
- Subject- You present your information on one of the subjects you are comparing and then, introduced by an appropriate transition word or phrase

Example of a contrast/comparison paragraph:

The diagram illustrates a contrast/comparison paragraph with three callout boxes on the left and two topic labels on the right. The paragraph text is as follows:

There are key differences between academic and professional writing. For example, academic writing is generally structured differently than professional writing. Academic papers usually include traditional, well-developed paragraphs. Additionally, academic writing uses the more objective third-person point-of-view, such as the use of “he, she, or it.” Lastly, academic writing uses a formal tone. On the other hand, professional writing often contains short direct paragraphs with bullet points to highlight key ideas. Another key difference between the two styles is that professional writing uses the first-person point-of-view, or use of “I,” so that the communication comes directly from the author. Similar to academic writing, professional writing requires a serious tone in order to gain the respect of the reader. No matter which type of writing you are creating, it is most important to tailor your writing to fit the expectations of the genre so that your message will be well received.

Annotations:

- Top Callout:** A topic sentence states both topics to be compared or contrasted. (Points to the first sentence: "There are key differences between academic and professional writing.")
- Middle Callout:** Transitional words or phrases indicate the differences or similarities. (Points to "On the other hand," "Another key difference," and "Similar to academic writing.")
- Bottom Callout:** A conclusion sentence explains the relevance of the comparison and contrast. (Points to the final sentence: "No matter which type of writing you are creating, it is most important to tailor your writing to fit the expectations of the genre so that your message will be well received.")

Topic Labels:

- Topic A:** Points to the orange-highlighted sentences: "Academic papers usually include traditional, well-developed paragraphs." and "Additionally, academic writing uses the more objective third-person point-of-view, such as the use of “he, she, or it.” Lastly, academic writing uses a formal tone."
- Topic B:** Points to the blue-highlighted sentences: "On the other hand, professional writing often contains short direct paragraphs with bullet points to highlight key ideas. Another key difference between the two styles is that professional writing uses the first-person point-of-view, or use of “I,” so that the communication comes directly from the author."

Web Resource:

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWpmZEh0Ks0>

More information:

www.guachipelin.com/comparison-and-contrast-paragraph-structure

References:

[http://english120.pbworks.com/w/page/19006833/contrast%20and%20comparison%20p
aragraph](http://english120.pbworks.com/w/page/19006833/contrast%20and%20comparison%20p%20aragraph)

<http://utminers.utep.edu/ajkline/compare.htm>