

Unit 4: Comparison-Contrast Essays

Step 3: Developing Your Ideas

Exercise 1: Reading a student essay

- Read the essay “My Two Homes” and answer the question “Which city does the author prefer”?

Exercise 2: Examining the student essay

- Based on your reading the passage, answer the questions (1-5).

Language and Grammar Focus

- Study the information in the box on “Comparison-Contrast Connectors” and the images on the Facebook page.

Exercise 3: Filling in connectors

- Complete the paragraph. Fill in the blanks with connectors.

Exercise 4: Using connectors to compare and contrast

- Rewrite the sentences (1-6) to show similarity or contrast, using the correct connector in parenthesis.

Step 4: Editing Your writing

Language and Grammar Focus

- Study the information in the box on “Using Comparatives in Comparison-Contrast Essays.”

Exercise 1: Forming comparatives

- Write the comparative form of the adjectives and adverbs.

Language and Grammar Focus

- Study the information in the box on the “Using Comparatives in Sentences.”

Exercise 2: Identifying comparatives

- Underline the comparatives in the sentences below.

Exercise 3: Choosing the correct form of comparatives

- Circle the correct form of the comparative in each sentence.

Exercise 4: Writing comparatives in sentences

- Complete each sentence using a comparative. Use *-er*, *-ier*, *more*, *less*

Exercise 5: Editing a paragraph

- Read the paragraph. Find and correct six more mistakes with comparatives.

Review: Putting It All Together

Exercise 1: Using connectors to compare and contrast

- Rewrite the sentences (1-6), using the correct connector in parentheses for more coherence.

Exercise 2: Forming comparatives

- Write the comparative form of the adjectives and adverbs, using *-er* or *more*

Exercise 3: Identifying comparatives

- Underline the comparatives in the sentences.

Exercise 4: Editing a paragraph

- Read the paragraph and edit as necessary. There are six mistakes.

ASSIGNMENT

Topics:

Two sports / jobs / hobbies / books / friends / places / seasons / life periods/
educational settings / desserts / movies

Step 1: Brainstorming (5 minutes).

A) Choose two topics of the above.

B) On a separate piece of paper, write down ideas and vocabulary for the two topics chosen. You may want to use a Venn diagram to do this.

Step 2: Outlining (15 minutes).

Write an outline for the two topics chosen, using the following template.

Introduction (First Paragraph)	
Hook Use a personal story or a surprising statement to engage your reader.	
Background Information Tell where the information about the topics came from or why it is important.	

Thesis statement Introduce the topics. And tell how they will be compared.	
Body Paragraphs (Middle Paragraphs)	
Topics and Controlling Ideas Introduce your main points of comparison and identify details.	
Conclusion (Last Paragraph)	
Summary and Comment Summarize the main points and draw a conclusion based on the comparison in the body paragraphs.	

Step 3: Writing (45 minutes)

- Use your brainstorming notes and outline to write your essay on a separate piece of paper. Choose only one topic to write an essay on.

Step 4: Editing (15 minutes)

- When you have finished your essay, check it for mistakes using the checklist below

CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION

- 1. Does the introduction include a hook to get your reader's attention?
- 2. Do you provide a background information?
- 3. Do you provide a thesis statement? Does it compare two objects?
- 4. Does each body paragraph have a clear topic sentence and include details to support the topic sentence?
- 5. Are the details well-organized in a clear sequence?
- 6. Does the conclusion summarize the points of comparison and/or contrast?
- 7. Is the purpose of the essay clear?
- 8. Is the essay correctly formatted with indented paragraphs?

LANGUAGE

- 9. Does the essay include connectors to add coherence?
- 10. Does the essay use the correct form of comparatives?