

Unit 4: Comparison-Contrast Essays

Step 1: Stimulating Ideas

A comparison-contrast essay is a type of essay that mainly illustrate the similarities and differences between one idea or image and another. These comparisons help us to see the image or idea in a new way.

Exercise 1: Thinking about the topic

A. Look at the two photos and answer the three questions

B. Choose one classroom environment and write notes about your preference, saying how it would be like and why it is your favorite

Exercise 2: Reading about the topic

- Read the passage "Learning about Differences"

Exercise 3: Understanding the text

- Based on your reading the text, write *T* for true or *F* for false for each statement.

Exercise 4: Responding to the text

- Based on your reading the passage, answer the questions (1-4).

Exercise 5 Free Writing

- Choose from the topics. Write notes for ten minutes, expressing your thoughts and feelings. Do not worry about mistakes.

Step 2: Brainstorming and Outlining

Exercise 1: Brainstorming Ideas

A. Look at the Venn diagram and answer the questions below.

B. Think of two places/activities where you can compare and contrast between them. Be as specific as you can. On a separate piece of paper, create your own Venn diagram, listing the characteristics that are special to each place and the common ones.

Exercise 2: Identifying audience and purpose

A. Circle the best answer. Choose only one.

B. On a separate piece of paper, write a sentence stating your goal behind writing the essay.

Exercise 3: Brainstorming vocabulary

A. Match column (Verbs) with column (Nouns). More than one answer is possible.

B. Write sentences using all verbs and nouns.

Rhetorical Focus

- Read and study the information in the box about “Comparison-Contrast Organization.”

Exercise 4: Reading a student essay

- Read the short essay “A Bi-Cultural Driver” and answer the question “What two cities does the writer compare”?

Exercise 5: Examining the student essay

- Based on your reading and understanding the essay, answer the questions A & B.

Exercise 6: Writing an outline

- Review your brainstorming ideas and your freewriting exercise. Then, fill in the spaces in the following outline template.

Introduction (First Paragraph)	
Hook Interest the reader. (Tip: Tell your expertise in this area.)	
Background Information Give general details that are important to your audience.	
Thesis statement Introduce the two places and tell how you are comparing them.	

Body Paragraphs (Middle Paragraphs)	
<p>Topic Sentence(s)</p> <p>Write a controlling idea that introduces similarities or differences.</p>	
<p>Details</p> <p>Explain the similarities or differences. Write about the first place. Then write about second place.</p>	
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Conclusion (Last Paragraph)	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>Retell the main similarities and differences.</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>Explain what you learned from the comparison that is interesting to your audience.</p>	