



HOW TO WRITE A COMPARATIVE NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

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COMPARISON-AND-CONTRAST NARRATIVE WRITING

- Comparison narrative illustrates how two or more people are similar.
- Contrast illustrates how two or more people are different.
- In most academic writing, the two are combined to analyze.
- In essence, you will be creating an extended analogy.
- An analogy explains one thing by comparing/contrasting it to a more familiar thing.



BRAINSTORMING SESSION

As a small-group, brainstorm the similarities and differences between yourself and one of the Mexican or Colombian students. (You may mention similarities and differences in appearance, but this is not your main point of emphasis.) You should address similarities and differences concerning ideas, family life, importance of education, interests, hobbies and so on. Using the paper provided, organize your answers into a Venn Diagram. Be sure to write your name on the Venn Diagram.



POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Determine the focus of your piece.
- Determine if you will focus on the similarities, the differences, or both.
- Be sure you treat each individual the same; each person deserves the same amount of focus-meaning, do not place most of the emphasis on you or the other person. Find a balance.



THESIS

- Identify not only the people being compared and contrasted, but also the overall point you are making by doing so. In other words, what is your message?
- Also indicate if you will focus on merely the similarities or differences, or both.
- What general statement could you make about yourself and the person you chose to compare yourself to?



THESIS

- Whether your paper focuses primarily on difference or similarity, you need to make the relationship between A and B clear in your thesis.
- Your introduction consists of a frame of reference, grounds for comparison, and thesis statement.



ORGANIZATIONAL SCHEME

- The two basic ways to organize the body of your paper is in a person-by-person method, where you discuss all of A, then all of B, or in a point-by-point (feature-by-feature) method, where you alternate points about A with comparable points about B.
- Ex. (**Person-by-Person**) Talk first about yourself, then discuss your other student.
- Ex. (**Point-by-Point**) Talk briefly about yourself and then connect the other student similarly or differently to the argument. Then repeat this again.



CHOOSE A METHOD

- Be sure to choose either the point-by-point or person-by-person method and stick with it.
- Always, as usual, link your points back to your thesis or main point so that your audience can clearly see how each section logically and systematically advances your argument.



CONCLUSION

- Your conclusion should summarize the main points in your narrative, as well as emphasize your thesis statement in new words.
- Leave your audience with “food for thought” or enlightening reason for your work.
- Be sure your conclusion is not merely your introduction rehashed.
- Extend on the main points in your essay.



TRANSITIONAL PHRASES

To Compare

Similarly, likewise, in like fashion, in like manner, analogous to, comparatively, accordingly, in the same way, comparative to, as, also, in conjunction with this



TRANSITIONAL PHRASES

To Contrast

On the contrary, contrarily, notwithstanding, but, however, nevertheless, in spite of, in contrast, yet, on one hand, on the other hand, rather, or, nor, conversely, at the same time, while this may be true



OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
 - A. Frame of Reference
 - B. Grounds for Comparison
 - C. Thesis



OUTLINE

II. Body Paragraphs (Point-by-Point Method)

A. Main Idea Statement

B. Points about A with Evidence

C. Points about B with Evidence

D. Link A and B

E. Concluding Statement



OUTLINE

III. Conclusion

A. Summary of Main Points

B. Restate Thesis

C. Enlightening Statement

