

Subject Focus (block)

Introductory Paragraph (include hook, background, topic, and finally thesis sentence with 2 subjects and 3-4 ideas)

Para #2 Subject A _____ (Topic sentence includes first subject listed)

Idea 1: _____

Idea 2: _____

Idea 3: _____

Para #3 Subject B: _____ (Topic sentence includes next subject listed)

Idea 1: _____

Idea 2: _____

Idea 3: _____

Concluding paragraph (point to future, suggest future action, relate to thesis, and express claim on topic.)

***Remember to use appropriate transitions.**

Idea Focus (Point-by-point)

Introductory Paragraph (include hook, background, topic, and finally thesis sentence with 3-4 ideas and 2 subjects)

Para #2 Idea A _____ (Topic sentence includes 1st idea listed)

Subject 1: _____

Subject 2: _____

Para #3 Idea B _____ (Topic sentence includes 2nd idea listed)

Subject 1: _____

Subject 2: _____

Para #4 Idea C _____ (Topic sentence includes 3rd idea listed)

Subject 1: _____

Subject 2: _____

Concluding paragraph (point to future, suggest future action, relate to thesis, and express claim on topic.)

***Remember to use appropriate transitions.**

Block Method Paragraph outline: _____

Topic sentence:

Subject A: _____

Idea 1: _____

Idea 2: _____

Idea 3: _____

Subject B: _____

Idea 1: _____

Idea 2: _____

Idea 3: _____

Concluding sentence:

*Remember to use appropriate transitions.

Point by point Paragraph outline: _____

Topic sentence:

Idea 1: _____

Subject A: _____

Subject B: _____

Idea 2: _____

Subject A: _____

Subject B: _____

Idea 3: _____

Subject A: _____

Subject B: _____

Concluding sentence:

*Remember to use appropriate transitions.

Here are the two common ways to organize comparison/contrast essays.

- ***The block method.*** With the block method, you present all the relevant ideas for the first subject and then all the relevant ideas for the second subject. If you use this method, which is more suitable for short papers than for longer ones, be sure to discuss the ideas in the same order for each subject.
- ***The point-by-point method.*** With this method, you arrange the essay by relevant ideas, focusing on one idea at a time. You discuss the idea for one subject and then for the other subject, and then go on to the next idea. This method works well with longer essays, but be sure to present the two subjects in the same order for each idea.

The chart shows both methods in action the subject are two poets, Anne Bradstreet and Sylvia Plath.

BLOCK METHOD	POINT-BY-POINT METHOD
Subject 1: Anne Bradstreet Idea 1: Personal life and marriage Specifics, examples Idea 2: Poetic themes and style Specifics, examples Idea 3: Influence on other poets Specifics, examples	Idea 1: Personal life and marriage Subject 1: Anne Bradstreet Specifics, examples Subject 2: Sylvia Plath Specifics, examples
Subject 1: Sylvia Plath Idea 1: Personal life and marriage Specifics, examples Idea 2: Poetic themes and style Specifics, examples Idea 3: Influence on other poets Specifics, examples	Idea 2: Poetic themes and style Subject 1: Anne Bradstreet Specifics, examples Subject 2: Sylvia Plath Specifics, examples Idea 3: Influence on other poets Subject 1: Anne Bradstreet Specifics, examples Subject 2: Sylvia Plath Specifics, examples

Compare and Contrast

In a compare and contrast paragraph, you write about the similarities and differences between two or more people, places, things, or ideas.

Example: Comparing (the weather in) Vancouver and Halifax.

The following words can help you to write a good compare and contrast paragraph:

Compare transitions: (show similarities) another, in the same way, like, likewise, similarly, too, also, as, together, along with, as well as, and, comparable to, in the same way, just as	Contrast transitions: (show differences) although, but, conversely, even if, even though, however, in spite of, instead, nevertheless, on the contrary, on the other hand, otherwise, rather, still, yet, while
---	---

Similarities

is similar to

Example: Spring weather in Vancouver **is similar to** spring weather in Halifax.

both

Example: **Both** Vancouver and Halifax have rain in the spring.

also

Example: Halifax **also** has a rainy spring season.

too

Example: Halifax has a rainy spring season, **too**.

as well

Example: Halifax has rainy spring season **as well**.

Differences

on the other hand

Example: **On the other hand**, winter is much colder in Halifax.

however

Example: **However**, winter is much colder in Halifax.

but

Example: Vancouver has a mild winter, **but** Halifax has a cold one.

in contrast to

Example: **In contrast to** Vancouver, Halifax has a cold winter.

differs from

Example: Halifax **differs from** Vancouver by having a cold winter.

while

Example: **While** Vancouver has a mild winter, Halifax has a cold winter.

Many people think identical twins are the same, but that is not always the case. Cassandra and Jessica are twins that do not fit that mold. While they may be headed to the same college next year after graduation, the similarities end there. Cassandra and Jessica have many differences in the areas of personality, interests, and goals.