

Grading Rubric: Comparison/Contrast Essay

Name:	Due Date:	Title of your Paper:
-------	-----------	----------------------

Your Comparison/Contrast Essay will be graded in the following categories. Review this rubric as you write and edit your paper. Fill in your name, the due date and the title of your paper. Staple this rubric to your paper after the last page.

THESIS	
5	You have presented a thoughtful, well-researched topic and clearly stated thesis that frames the essay from beginning to end
4	You have a strong thesis that clearly defines your topic
3	You have a central idea, but your exact thesis is somewhat unclear or isn't backed up with specific, focused evidence
2	You have a weak or nondescript thesis statement or cliché topic
1	Your topic or idea is weak, vague, inconsistent, poorly researched, or missing

ORGANIZATION	
5	You have a logically and thoughtfully structured paper that flows well and in a way that benefits and strengthens the thesis
4	You have a well-constructed paper that makes use of topic sentences and transitions
3	Your structure is apparent, but it's either inconsistent throughout or doesn't flow from point to point
2	You use limited organization, you don't transition or employ topic sentences
1	Your paper has little or no structure and/or makes points out of context

CONTENT	
5	Your content is focused, unique, and contains specific details that illustrate and enhance your thesis, few or no wasted words
4	You demonstrate knowledge of your topic with your content and provide clear evidence for your thesis
3	Your content is related to your topic but doesn't support your thesis
2	Portions of your content are off topic, unclear or unnecessary
1	Much of your content contains unrelated information, little to no evidence of your thesis, generalizations or opinions

MECHANICS & STYLING	
5	You've made dynamic word choices and write with authority and expertise, no major spelling or grammatical errors
4	You have minimal grammatical errors but your sentences are strong
3	You have some grammatical/spelling/usage/agreement errors or some awkward or poorly constructed sentences
2	You have some grammatical/spelling/usage/agreement errors and some awkward or poorly constructed sentences
1	More than half of your paper contains mechanical errors, poor sentence structure, and no evidence of proofreading

GRADING		
Category:	Score:	Notes:
THESIS		
ORGANIZATION		
CONTENT		
MECHANICS & STYLING		