

## Comparison & Contrast Demonstration with Worksheet

- I. Introduction: We are going to discuss comparison/contrast & do an activity that will help you generate a thesis and prepare you to write your own compare/contrast essay.
  - a. What is Comparison? (Similarities) Contrast? (Differences)
  - b. Sample uses
    - i. Practically - Packing a lunch versus eating out
    - ii. Conversationally - Comparing skiing to snowboarding
    - iii. Personally - Macs versus PCs
  - c. Why Compare & Contrast?
    - i. Outweigh benefits of one thing over another (buying a car, safety features or gas mileage)
    - ii. Help someone else decide/convince (use Travelocity over Expedia)
    - iii. Some things aren't really that different (insurance plan)
    - iv. Academically, comparing books or articles
  - d. Hand out worksheet.
- II. Activity
  - a. Focus: Subject – Here the subjects are already chosen, but in the focus stage it is important to choose two subjects that have enough in common to be usefully compared/contrasted. Consider the topics you've brought with you today.
    - i. "It Happened One Night" Hitchhiking Scene
    - ii. "American Beauty" Cheerleading Scene
  - b. Purpose: Why is this important to the reader?
    - i. Subject 1 = "IHON"
    - ii. Subject 2 = "AB"
    - iii. Purpose/Distinction =
      1. How women's sexuality is handled on film in 1934 vs. 1999
      2. What is considered sexual in 1934 vs. 1999
      3. Men's reaction to sexuality 1934 vs. 1999
  - c. Thesis – Subject 1 + Subject 2 + Purpose = Thesis Statement
    - i. In the films "It Happened One Night" and "American Beauty", Hollywood reveals two very different definitions of sexuality 65 years apart.
  - d. Evidence: Points based on purpose/thesis (are we comparing or contrasting?)

i. Similarities

1. Best Picture Winners
2. Women 'putting on a show'
3. Women revealing parts of their bodies
4. Aware of their sexuality
5. Men are watching & reacting to them

ii. Differences

1. What is being revealed: 1934 = leg; 1999 = (almost) breasts
2. How do the men react: 1934 = shocked; 1999 = amused
3. Tone: 1934 = Comic; 1999 = Serious
4. Context of story: 1934 = Battle of the Sexes; 1999 = Older man/adolescent
5. Context of scene: 1934 = Reality; 1999 = Fantasy

e. Organize Outline

i. Point by Point or Whole by Whole

1. Both introduce subjects (b/g info if necessary) & clearly present thesis
2. PxP = Point 1 = What is being revealed
3. WxW = Sub 1 = IHON, revealed a leg...

ii. Organize sub-points from brainstorming

III. Any Questions???

## Compare & Contrast Worksheet

**Focus:** *Chose two subjects that have enough in common to be usefully linked*

Subject 1

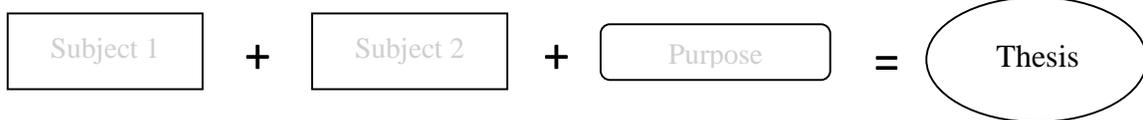
Subject 2

**Purpose:** *Identify how and why you are comparing/contrasting your subjects for your reader*

I am exploring the similarities/differences between  
Subject 1 and Subject 2 because I want the reader to:

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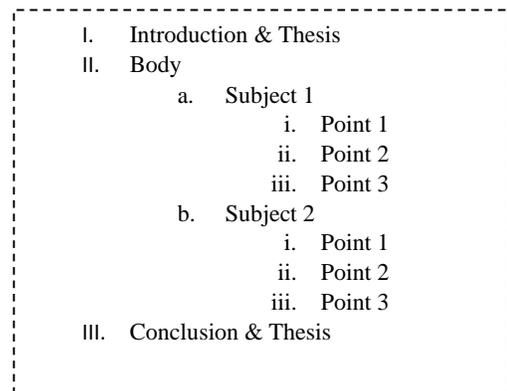
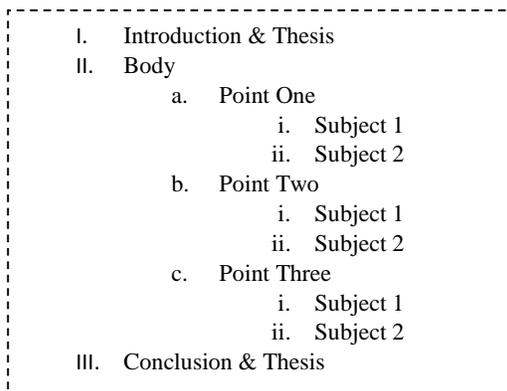
**Thesis:** *Combine your subjects and your purpose to construct your thesis*



**Evidence:** *List the points you will make in comparison, contrast, or both*

Compare (Similarities)	Contrast (Differences)
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**Organization:** *Put it all together: Point-by-Point or Whole-by-Whole?*



## Comparison & Contrast Assignment

**Focus:** *Chose two subjects that have enough in common to be usefully linked*

**Purpose:** *Identify how and why you are comparing/contrasting your subjects for your reader*

**Thesis:** *Combine your subjects and your purpose to construct your thesis*

**Evidence:** *List the points you will make in comparison, contrast, or both*

**Organization:** *Put it all together, Point-by-Point or Whole-by-Whole?*