

# August Writing Topics

## Comparison and Contrast Essay

A comparison and contrast essay explains the similarities and differences between two or more things, whether they are different objects, places, people, ideas, or events. To compare means to examine how things are similar to each other, and to contrast means to examine how things are different from each other. There are two common methods for organizing a comparison and contrast essay. You may use the following example as a guide.

**Example Topic:** Eating in and dining out

**Example Thesis:** Cooking meals at home is more economical than dining at a restaurant.

### Option #1: Block Method

- I. Intro and thesis
- II. Dining out
  - A. Convenient
  - B. Fast
  - C. Expensive
- III. Eating in
  - A. Less convenient
  - B. Slower
  - C. Cheaper
- IV. Conclusion

### Option #2: Point-by-Point Method

- I. Intro and thesis
- II. Convenience
  - A. Eating in
  - B. Dining out
- III. Amount of time
  - A. Eating in
  - B. Dining out
- IV. Amount of money
  - A. Eating in
  - B. Dining out
- V. Conclusion

After choosing the two things you will compare and contrast, identify the categories they have in common and then brainstorm about the similarities and differences in each category.

## Possible Topics

1. Two characters from a novel (possible categories: looks, personality, behavior, motive)
2. Two books or movies (possible categories: genre, theme, plot, mood)
3. Two sports teams
4. Two video game consoles
5. Two cities you have lived in
6. Two political candidates
7. Republican vs. Democratic views on a problem
8. Two universities you are interested in attending

## Minimum Word Count

Junior 2 student: at least 150 words

Junior 3 student: at least 200 words

Intermediate 1 student: at least 250 words

Intermediate 2 student: at least 300 words

Intermediate 3+ student: at least 400 words

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