

# COMPARE & CONTRAST

## How to write a C&C essay

### ABOUT C&C ESSAYS

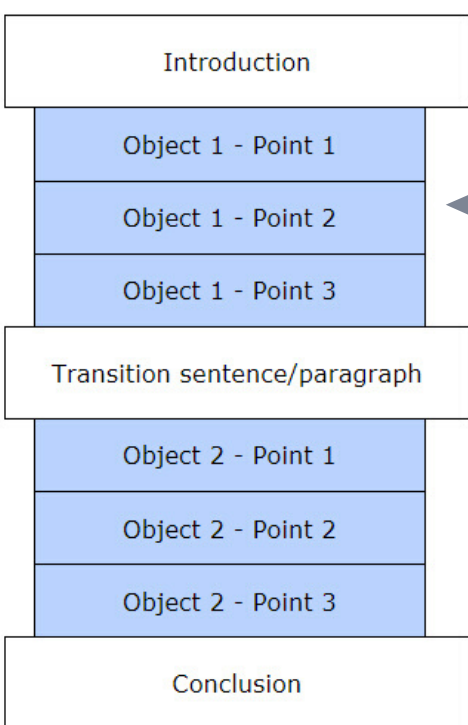
To compare = to examine how things are similar

To contrast = to see how things differ

A compare and contrast essay looks at the similarities of two or more objects, and the differences.



#### Block



### STRUCTURE

Two ways to structure a C&C essay.

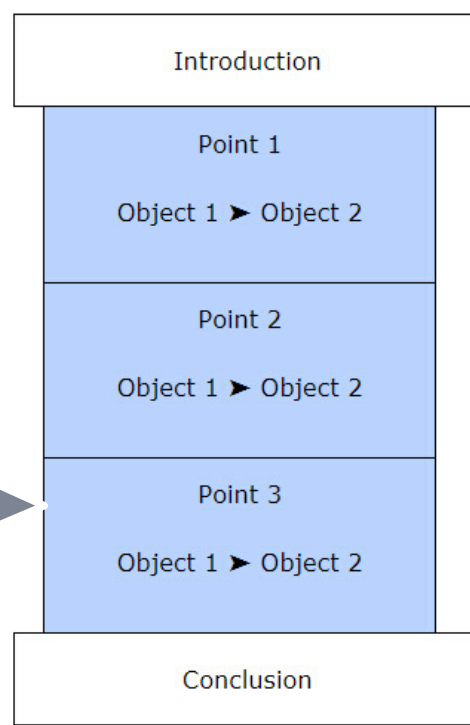
#### Block

All information about one object is given first, and all information about the other object is given afterwards.

#### Point-by-point

Each similarity (or difference) for one object is followed immediately by the similarity (or difference) for the other.

#### Point-by-point



### STRUCTURE WORDS

Compare and contrast structure words are transition signals which show the similarities or differences.

#### Compare

**SIMILARLY**  
**LIKEWISE**  
**ALSO**  
**BOTH... AND...**  
**NOT ONLY... BUT ALSO...**  
**NEITHER... NOR...**  
**JUST LIKE (+ NOUN)**  
**SIMILAR TO (+ NOUN)**  
**TO BE SIMILAR (TO)**  
**TO BE THE SAME AS**  
**TO BE ALIKE**  
**TO COMPARE (TO/WITH)**

#### Contrast

**HOWEVER**  
**IN CONTRAST**  
**IN COMPARISON**  
**BY COMPARISON**  
**ON THE OTHER HAND**  
**WHILE**  
**WHEREAS**  
**BUT**  
**TO DIFFER FROM**  
**TO BE DIFFERENT (FROM)**  
**TO BE DISSIMILAR TO**  
**TO BE UNLIKE**

#### Example

Aaron and Bruce differ in four ways. The first difference is height. Aaron is tall, while Bruce is short. A second difference is strength. Aaron is strong. In contrast, Bruce is weak. A third difference is appearance. Aaron, who is average looking, differs from Bruce, who is handsome. The final difference is intelligence. Aaron is of average intelligence. Bruce, on the other hand, is very intelligent.

When making comparisons or contrasts, it is important to be clear what criteria you are using.

In the example (left), the criteria are: height, strength, appearance, intelligence.

This example paragraph uses point-by-point structure.

### CRITERIA

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