



English 1301



Compare/Contrast Assignment Sheet

Length & Formatting

Length: 3 full pages minimum (You can write up to 4 full pages, but don't go over 4). Three (3) full pages is roughly 900 to 1,000 words, but go primarily by 3 full pages minimum.

Formatting: Typed & double-spaced, 12-point font (Font style: Times New Roman, Calibri, Arial, Aptos, Tahoma, or Helvetica). Follow MLA style throughout the paper.

Margins: 1" margins on top, bottom, left & right

Optional Sources/Work(s) Cited

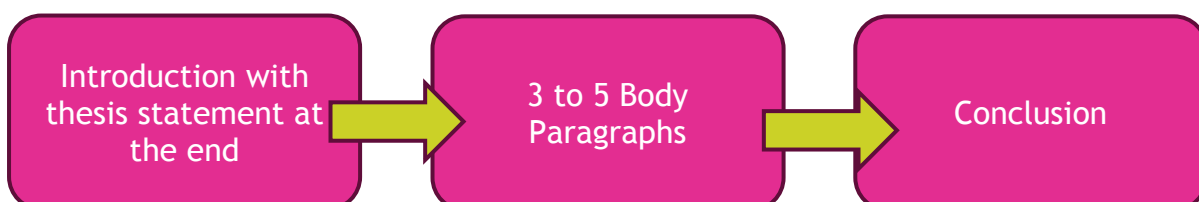
Outside sources are **not required** for this assignment, and most topics will not require research. Your essay should primarily be based on your own knowledge, observations, experiences, examples, and analysis. If you do use information from an outside source, you must cite it appropriately in MLA format and include a Works Cited page.

Final Draft Due Date

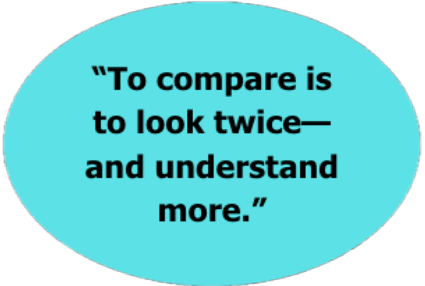
Follow the due date in our course shell and on the course calendar.

Writing Task & Paper Structure

Choose **two subjects that are appropriate for comparison** and that allow you to develop a meaningful discussion of their similarities, differences, or both. Your subjects should belong to the same general category and should not result in an overly simple or obvious comparison. Refer to the **Topics** page of the Compare/Contrast website for complete guidance on choosing a topic. Your essay will be structured roughly like this:



- **Introduction** – Introduce both subjects and provide enough background or context for your reader to understand them and their relationship to your essay. Depending on your topic, you might explain your experience with the subjects, how they are connected, or why comparing them is worthwhile. Do not begin the detailed comparison yet. Your introduction should move naturally toward your thesis statement.
- **Thesis Statement** – Place your thesis statement at the end of your introduction. Your thesis should clearly indicate whether your essay will focus on similarities, differences, or both and should preview the **three or more main points of comparison** you will develop in the essay. Your thesis should give your reader a clear sense of the direction and purpose of the comparison.
- **Three to Five Body Paragraphs** – Each body paragraph should focus on **one distinct point of comparison** and discuss both Subject A and Subject B in relation to that point. Begin with a clear topic sentence that identifies the comparison point without immediately getting into all the details. Then develop Subject A and Subject B thoroughly, using specific details, examples, experiences, observations, or other relevant evidence. Give both subjects sufficient attention rather than developing one thoroughly and treating the other briefly. After discussing both subjects, explain the **significance of the similarity or difference**. What does this comparison reveal, and why does it matter? Remember that simply identifying similarities and differences is not enough; your essay should offer meaningful analysis and insight.
- **Organization** – You are required to use **point-by-point organization** for this assignment. This means each body paragraph discusses both subjects in relation to the same comparison point. Do not organize the essay by discussing Subject A completely and then Subject B completely. Use appropriate transitions within and between paragraphs to help your reader follow the comparison.
- **Conclusion** – Bring the comparison together as a whole rather than simply repeating your thesis or listing your comparison points again. Consider what the similarities and/or differences ultimately reveal about the two subjects. What larger insight can your reader take away from the comparison? You may discuss broader implications or significance or reflect on what the comparison helps us understand about people, experiences, places, institutions, systems, or other aspects of life. Do not introduce a completely new comparison point in the conclusion.



"To compare is to look twice—and understand more."

This is only a short overview of the assignment requirements. **You are responsible for following the complete guidance and parameters presented throughout the Compare/Contrast instructional website.** Refer back to the relevant pages of the website as you plan, draft, revise, and edit your essay.