

ESSAY #4: COMPARISON-CONTRAST

- In General

This is one of the most popular and widely used writing strategies. We often wish to demonstrate how one thing is different from or similar to another thing. Upon examination, we may find that things thought to be very different actually have similarities (or vice-versa).

- Thesis Statement

A strong thesis will name the subjects being compared/contrasted, and it will clearly state the main point while it indicates your focus on like/unlike qualities.

- Organization

For this strategy, decide upon a divided (or subject-by-subject) pattern versus an alternating (or point-by-point) approach. The examples of these two patterns given in your text on pp. 340-341 are excellent. Sometimes, you can combine these two patterns.

- Audience

As always, it's wise to consider your reader's knowledge of the general subject. If you're comparing softball to over-the-line, your audience may know more about one than the other. Some explanations or definitions might be desirable.

- Approach/Tone

When making a major purchase, we may gather facts and take a critical look at something to attempt to obtain the best value. At other times, we may wish to take a more fanciful look, instead of a strict one, with the purpose of entertainment/humor.

- Length: 1 ½ - 2 ½ pages

- Due Date: Monday 5 – 19