Composition II
Compare and contrast writing method

Professor Alonso Salazar, Mag.

How to structure a compare-contrast essay: The point-by-point method

The **point-by-point structure** lists each similarity and difference simultaneously—making notes of both subjects. For example, you can list a characteristic specific to one subject, followed by its similarity or difference to the other subject.
Both formats have their pros and cons. The block method is clearly easier to write, as you simply point out all of the information about the two subjects, and basically leave it to the reader to do the comparison. The point-by-point format requires you to analyze the points yourself while making similarities and differences more explicit to the reader for them to be easier to understand. Here is a detailed structure of each type presented below.

Point-by-Point Method

Introduction

- Hook
- Background information (3-5 sentences)
- Present your thesis - cover all areas of the essay in one sentence.

Example thesis: Cars and motorcycles make for excellent means of transportation, but a good choice depends on the person's **lifestyle**, **finances**, and the **city** they live in.

Body Paragraph 1 - LIFESTYLE

- Topic Sentence: *Motorcycles impact the owner's lifestyle less than cars.*
- Topic 1 - Motorcycles
- Argument: Motorcycles are smaller and more comfortable to store.
- Argument: Motorcycles are easy to learn and use.
- Topic 2 - Cars
- Argument: Cars are a big deal - they are like a second home.
- Argument: It takes time to learn to become a good driver.
-

Body Paragraph 2 - FINANCES

- Topic sentence: *Cars are much more expensive than motorcycles.*
- Topic 1 - Motorcycles
- Argument: You can buy a good motorcycle for under 300$.
- Argument: Fewer parts that are more accessible to fix.
- Topic 2 - Cars
- Argument: Parts and service are expensive if something breaks.
- Argument: Cars need more gas than motorcycles.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Composition II
Compare and contrast writing method **Professor Alonso Salazar, Mag.**

Body Paragraph 3 - CITY

- Topic sentence: *Cars are a better option for bigger cities with wider roads.*
- Topic 1 - Motorcycles
- Argument: Riding motorcycles in a big city is more dangerous than with cars.
- Argument: Motorcycles work great in a city like Rome, where all the streets are narrow.
- Topic 2 - Cars
- Argument: Big cities are easier and more comfortable to navigate by car.
- Argument: With a car, traveling outside of the city is much easier.

Conclusion

- Thesis restatement
- Summary of major points
- Clincher or final statement

Based on the thesis statement that you wrote in the previous activity, choose one of the reasons or aspects to be developed in your essay's body and write a paragraph following the plan B structure.

LIVEWORKSHEETS