



## Writing Comparison and Contrast Essays

**Comparison:** Usually shows the similarities among people, ideas, situations, or objects.

**Contrast:** Shows the differences.

**Planning process:**

1. Select two subjects to compare and/or contrast.
2. Find points of comparison or contrast.
3. List how they are similar and how they differ.
4. Decide if you want to compare the two subjects, contrast them, or both.
5. Determine if the subjects have enough in common to make a comparison or contrast worthwhile.
6. Ask yourself what is the purpose of the comparison?
7. Write a thesis which includes the subjects and the main points you want to make:  
For example: Although Leonardo DaVinci's *Mona Lisa* and Andrew Wyeth's *China Blue* are both portraits of women, they differ in cultural references, medium, and style.
8. What meaningful observations can you conclude from your comparison/contrast?

**Organization:**

Point-by-Point

Whole-to-Whole

Introduction and Thesis statement

Introduction and Thesis statement

Point 1 (cultural references)

Subject 1 (*Mona Lisa*)

Subject 1 (*Mona Lisa*)

Point 1 (cultural references)

Subject 2 (*China Blue*)

Point 2 (medium)

Point 3 (style)

Point 2 (medium (oil vs. pastel))

Subject 1 (*Mona Lisa*)

Subject 2 (*China Blue*)

Subject 2 (*China Blue*)

Point 1 (cultural references)

Point 2 (medium)

Point 3 (style)

Point 3 (style)

Subject 1 (*Mona Lisa*)

Subject 2 (*China Blue*)

Concluding paragraph (so what?)

Concluding paragraph (so what?)