

## Compare/Contrast Essay Outline

### ENG 101 -- Blackburn

#### Introduction:

1. Present a **hook** -- Include background information about your topic to interest you reader.

2. **Introduce** the subjects you will discuss. Be objective. Imply that you will compare, contrast, or both.

3. **Thesis**: Objectively define your topics to be compared/contrasted. Be sure to include at least three key points to compare/contrast in your approach. If you are arguing a point, present it in your thesis.

#### **Decide on an Organizing Principle:**

Before writing your body, decide upon [an organizing principle](#). Choose either alternating pattern, where you focus on the point being discussed. Or choose block pattern, where you focus on one subject of compare/contrast at a time and then change to the other (see "[Neat People vs. Sloppy People](#)").

- Here is a [handout from another source](#) for managing an organizing principle.

#### Body Paragraphs:

This will depend on your organizing principle. Be sure to give equal weight to each subject. If you discuss points A, B, and C for subject 1, you must do the same for subject 2. Write 3-5 body paragraphs with a clear thesis sentence, supporting points, examples, and analysis.

#### Conclusion:

1. **Restate the Thesis**: Objectively redefine your topic and the points of comparison/contrast you outlined in the essay. If you are arguing a point, present it again here.

2. **Summarize main points**: Reemphasize any of the ideas made in your compare/contrast.

3. **Clincher**: Provide a reminder, thought, or call to action for your reader. Leave them with something to do or think about regarding your topic.