The Comparison & Contrast Essay

This pattern of development is used to explain the similarities or differences between your subject and something else.

There are two ways of writing a **comparison or contrast** essay – (a) block by block or (b) point by point.

Watch the video link below:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvMSeg1s7uc

Question: What are the advantages and disadvantages of each method? What determines which method you choose?

Caution: When selecting points, try to avoid the overly obvious or simplistic. Choose points that have more substance.

THE THESIS STATEMENT

The thesis statement for comparison and contrast should contain two basic parts:
1. The two things being compared
2. The points of comparison expressed in parallel form.
   - -For point by point method, make sure there are 3 points expressed in parallel form that do not overlap.
   - -If using block by block, this part can be more general.

Taking the thesis to a higher level:
3. Try adding on a purpose for the comparison.

For Example: X and Y can be compared in terms of A, B and C in order to Z. (Where Z= Purpose)

-Exposition 'purpose' words: demonstrate, illustrate, show, etc.
-Argument/Persuasion 'purpose' words: determine, explore, assess, evaluate, etc. (Notice that these words are more analytical.)

<u>Practice:</u> Craft a thesis comparing or contrasting two people or items.

Essay Topics

- A Wedding and a Divorce
- Large Pets and Small Pets
- Using Cash and Using a Credit Card
- The Pessimist and the Optimist
- Eating In and Eating Out
- Texting and Calling