

## Comparison OR Contrast Potential Organization Methods.

Remember: In order to Compare OR Contrast, you need to have a common denominator.

*Do not do (BAD): A→B (you simply cannot compare straight like this. It ends up being random and unfocused, and usually without importance.*

**Rather: Measure up both items to a third, common trait.**

A→C    Now, explain why the difference or similarity is important

B→C

Then, you need to make it clear and argue why the differences or similarities are Important. Simply pointing out similarities or differences is not college-level thinking. Any grade school student can do that. The critical thinking part comes in by explaining why those differences or similarities are important.

There two ways to do this task.

### The Ping-Pong Paper (back and forth)

- I. Introduction.
  - a. What are the two things you are Comparing OR Contrasting?
  - b. Are you Comparing OR Contrasting?
  - c. Establish (make clear) the Common Denominator.
- II. Point 1<sub>C</sub>—First point of Comparison or Contrast
  - a. Thing A point 1<sub>C</sub>
  - b. Thing B point 1<sub>C</sub>
  - c. Importance of compare or contrast point 1<sub>C</sub> (A to B)
- III. Point 2<sub>C</sub>—Second point of Comparison or Contrast
  - a. Thing A point 2<sub>C</sub>
  - b. Thing B point 2<sub>C</sub>
  - c. Importance of compare or contrast point 2<sub>C</sub> (A to B)
- IV. Point 3<sub>C</sub>—Third point of Comparison or Contrast
  - a. Thing A point 3<sub>C</sub>
  - b. Thing B point 3<sub>C</sub>
  - c. Importance of compare or contrast point 3<sub>C</sub> (A to B)
- V. Conclusion –
  - a. Recap points.
  - b. When you add up Points 1<sub>C</sub>, 2<sub>C</sub>, 3<sub>C</sub> and their importance, what is the overall importance of bigger picture? What does all that contrast or comparison mean overall?

Pros of this method : Easy to organize, easy to keep track for writer, simple structure.

Cons of this method: Annoys the reader, seems over-simplistic, can be confusing and seem random to reader.

## The Establishing a Foundation (Focused and Linear Logic)

- I. Introduction.
  - a. What are the two things you are Comparing OR Contrasting?
  - b. Are you Comparing OR Contrasting?
  - c. Establish (make clear) the Common Denominator.
  
- II. Thing A – Establish the points in Thing A
  - a. Thing A point 1<sub>C</sub>
  - b. Thing A point 2<sub>C</sub>
  - c. Thing A point 3<sub>C</sub>  
(note, be sure to unpack these points, not just state them)
  
- III. Thing B—Compare the points of Thing B to the points of Thing A
  - a. Thing B Point 1<sub>C</sub> compared or contrasted to Thing A Point 1<sub>C</sub>
  - b. Thing B Point 2<sub>C</sub> compared or contrasted to Thing A Point 2<sub>C</sub>
  - c. Thing B Point 3<sub>C</sub> compared or contrasted to Thing A Point 3<sub>C</sub>  
(note, be sure to unpack these points, not just state them. Also, transitional expressions are key to making this part of your paper clear)
  
- IV. The Importances of the comparisons or contrasts
  - a. Importance of Thing B<sub>1C</sub> to Thing A<sub>1C</sub>
  - b. Importance of Thing B<sub>2C</sub> to Thing A<sub>2C</sub>
  - c. Importance of Thing B<sub>3C</sub> to Thing A<sub>3C</sub>
  
- V. Conclusion –
  - a. Recap points.
  - b. When you add up Points 1c, 2c, 3c and their importance, what is the overall importance of bigger picture? What does all that contrast or comparison mean overall?