

Center for Academic Learning (CAL)
 2nd Floor Gurley Hall 2205/2210
<http://www.gallup.unm.edu/cal>
<http://fb.me/UNMGAL>
 Mon-Fri, 8:00am-5:00pm



Comparison-and-Contrast Essays

Comparison and contrast involves looking at both **similarities** and **differences**. There are two basic types of comparison-and-contrast essays: a **subject-by-subject essay**, and a **point-by-point essay**.

Graphic Organizer for a Comparison-and-Contrast Essay

Title	
Introduction	Background information: Facts to help understand the comparison
	Subjects: A comparison/contrast of Houses A and B
	Thesis statement: Identifies the <i>subjects</i> being compared or contrasted; suggests whether the focus is on <i>similarities</i> , <i>differences</i> , or <i>both</i> ; states the <i>main point</i> and why the comparison/contrast is useful or important

Subject-by-Subject

(describes key points or characteristics of one subject before moving on to those of the other subject)

Body Paragraphs (at least 2 paragraphs total)	First Body Paragraph: Subject A (House A)
	<i>Point 1</i> (Layout of House A)
	<i>Point 2</i> (Size of House A)
	<i>Point 3</i> (Building materials used in House A)
	<i>Point 4</i> (Landscaping around House A)
	Second Body Paragraph: Subject B (House B)
	<i>Point 1</i> (Layout of House B)
	<i>Point 2</i> (Size of House B)
	<i>Point 3</i> (Building materials used in House B)
	<i>Point 4</i> (Landscaping around House B)

Point-by-Point

(moves back and forth between two subjects, comparing or contrasting them on the basis of several key points)

Body Paragraphs (no. of paragraphs dependent on number of points discussed)	Point 1 (Layout of House A and House B) Point 2 (Size of House A and House B) Point 3 (Building materials used in House A and House B) Point 4 (Landscaping around House A and House B)
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Conclusion	Reinforce thesis
	Summarize main points