



Two Outline Options for a Comparison/Contrast Essay

Subject by Subject Approach

I. INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND INFO: Name your two subjects.

B. THESIS: State your purpose (to persuade or inform); if you are merely informing, declaring that intent is your thesis. If you are persuading (passing judgment), then you can have a limited thesis or a full thesis. A limited thesis declares your intent to persuade, but doesn't give away your opinion yet; that is saved for the Conclusion. A full thesis goes ahead and gives your opinion as to which subject is superior. Usually, a limited thesis at this point will help you to remain unbiased in the descriptive Main Body.

C. PREVIEW: List your standards of comparison.

II. MAIN BODY

A. FIRST SUBJECT

1. FIRST STANDARD OF COMPARISON (1st body paragraph)

a. TS (topic sentence)

b. GE (general explanation)

c. SE (specific example)

d. CS (concluding sentence)

2. SECOND STANDARD OF COMPARISON (2nd body

paragraph)

a. TS

b. GE

c. SE

d. CS

3. THIRD STANDARD OF COMPARISON (3rd body paragraph)

a. TS

b. GE

c. SE

d. CS

B. SECOND SUBJECT

1. FIRST STANDARD OF COMPARISON (4th body paragraph)

a. TS

b. GE

c. SE

d. CS

2. SECOND STANDARD OF COMPARISON (5th body paragraph)

a. TS

b. GE

c. SE

d. CS

3. THIRD STANDARD OF COMPARISON (6th body paragraph)

a. TS

b. GE

c. SE

d. CS

III. CONCLUSION

A. BOTH SUBJECTS--FIRST STANDARD OF COMPARISON

B. BOTH SUBJECTS--SECOND STANDARD OF COMPARISON

C. BOTH SUBJECTS--THIRD STANDARD OF COMPARISON

D. RESTATEMENT OR EXPANSION OF THESIS

Outline of Comparison-Contrast Essay:

Standard by Standard Approach

I. INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND INFO: Name your two subjects.

B. THESIS: State your purpose (to persuade or inform); if you are merely informing, declaring that intent is your thesis. If you are persuading (passing judgment), then you can have a limited thesis or a full thesis. A limited thesis declares your intent to persuade, but doesn't give away your opinion yet; that is saved for the Conclusion. A full thesis goes ahead and gives your opinion as to which subject is superior. Usually, a limited thesis at this point will help you to remain unbiased in the descriptive Main Body.

C. PREVIEW: List your standards of comparison.

II. MAIN BODY

A. FIRST STANDARD OF COMPARISON

1. FIRST SUBJECT (1st body paragraph)

a. TS

b. GE

c. SE

d. CS

2. SECOND SUBJECT (2nd body paragraph)

a. TS

b. GE

c. SE

d. CS

B. SECOND STANDARD OF COMPARISON

1. FIRST SUBJECT (3rd body paragraph)

a. TS

b. GE

c. SE

d. CS

2. SECOND SUBJECT (4th body paragraph)

a. TS

b. GE

c. SE

d. CS

C. THIRD STANDARD OF COMPARISON

1. FIRST SUBJECT (5th body paragraph)

a. TS

b. GE

c. SE

d. CS

2. SECOND SUBJECT (6th body paragraph)

a. TS

b. GE

c. SE

d. CS

III. CONCLUSION

A. BOTH SUBJECTS--FIRST STANDARD OF
COMPARISON

B. BOTH SUBJECTS--SECOND STANDARD OF
COMPARISON

C. BOTH SUBJECTS--THIRD STANDARD OF
COMPARISON

D. RESTATEMENT OR EXPANSION OF THESIS

Jordan, M. (2006) Two outline options for comparison/contrast essay. Retrieved 27
March 2006 from <http://www.odessa.edu/dept/english/mjordan/Compare-contrast.htm>