

Essay 1:

Write 3 to 5 page (double-spaced, typed, Times Roman 12) compare-and contrast essay on one of the following topics. Before writing the essay, make sure to identify a theme and two representative objects/subjects of comparison. Then, brainstorm making a list of similarities and differences or map out these similarities and differences using a Venn diagram. Remember, a well written compare-and-contrast essay uses description to provide fresh insight on the way of viewing the two objects/subjects. Many times a thorough comparison/contrast will lead to an evaluation of the objects/subjects-- demonstrating how one object/subject is better than the other. Make sure the thesis statement of this essay cues the reader, indicating the purpose of the essay and the overall structure of the essay. Frequently, a compare-and-contrast essay takes on one of two forms: (1) describing in blocks one object/subject, then the other; or, describing one aspect point-by-point in the case of each object/subject.

Sample thesis (emphasis here is on thesis's purpose not the comparative element, as this essay is only a comparison essay):

While many people quickly note the differences between Latin American cultures and U.S. culture, few realize the subtle ways that these cultures are similar. Three of the most important cultural commonalities include: (1) the struggle of the middle class, (2) the influence of Afro-American subcultures, and (3) the cultural role of commercial television.

POSSIBLE TOPICS:

1. Songs: Their Message and How They Shape Historical and Social Events
2. Prevalent American Attitudes