

Compare and contrast essay templates: block structure and point-to-point examples

Block structure template

Block structure is one of the two most common ways to format a compare and contrast essay. If you use block structure, you'll discuss your first subject in body paragraph #1. Then, you'll explain how your second subject is both similar and different in body paragraph #2.

Keep these tips in mind if you want to write your paper with block structure:

- It's easy for your instructor to forget points you made in the first body paragraph once they read further on in the paper. Ask a classmate or tutor to proofread your essay and ensure your arguments are clear throughout.
- As you return to points in the second body paragraph, your wording might get repetitive. Check to make sure your language is original and engaging throughout the paper.

On the next page, you'll find a template for a compare and contrast essay in the block structure format.

<Paper format is dependent on your instructor and style they choose. This is one example>

Your Name

Your Professor's Name

Your Class

The Date

Block Structure Essay Title

This is your introduction. Notice how the introduction, along with every other paragraph, begins with a half-inch indent. Double-spaced lines and one-inch margins on all sides are also part of proper formatting unless your instructor requests something different. Your introduction will let your instructor know which two subjects you're comparing. It's helpful to use some background information or an anecdote to kick off your introduction. Then, transition into writing your thesis statement. A thesis statement outlines how you will compare and contrast your two subjects and why these points matter.

In block structure, your first body paragraph is all about your first subject. Provide three or four points about subject #1 that you'll use later to compare it with subject #2. Make sure to give some supporting evidence. You'll also need to cite your sources based on your instructor's preferred citation style. Keep in mind that your two body paragraphs will contain a lot of substance and should be longer in the final paper than they appear in this template.

Your second body paragraph will focus on subject #2. Explain how your second subject is similar and different from your first subject. To do this, use the points you made in the last paragraph. Again, this body paragraph will contain a lot of content and will be longer in the final paper than in the template. For every point you make, be sure to provide evidence to back up your claims. Just make sure to cite outside sources properly!

[More tool and tips linked here](#)

Here's your conclusion. You'll use this paragraph to remind your instructor of your two topics. An eye-catching anecdote or useful background information are both good ways to begin. Then, transition back into your thesis statement. Instead of copying and pasting your thesis here, try to reword it. Finally, wrap up your paper with one or two concluding sentences so the ending does not seem abrupt.

Point-to-point template

Point-to-point is another popular structure for compare and contrast essays. Each body paragraph discusses something similar or different about your two topics. Unlike block structure, you'll talk about both subjects in each body paragraph with this method.

Here are a couple of tips for writing a paper with this structure:

- Because you're comparing both of your subjects throughout the paper, make sure it's always clear which subject you're describing.
- Never include a weaker point just to fill out your paper. Each of your points should inspire a good, paragraph-long discussion.

Do you want to use the point-to-point technique in your compare and contrast essay?

Check out the template on the next page.

<Paper format is dependent on your instructor and style they choose. This is one example>

Your Name

Your Professor's Name

Your Class

The Date

Point-to-Point Essay Title

This is your introduction. Notice how the introduction, along with every other paragraph, begins with a half-inch indent. Double-spaced lines and one-inch margins on all sides are also part of proper formatting unless your instructor requests something different. Your introduction will let your instructor know which two subjects you're comparing. It's helpful to use some background information or an anecdote to begin. Then, transition into your thesis statement. A thesis statement outlines how you will compare and contrast your two subjects and why these points matter.

In point-to-point, each of your body paragraphs will focus on a point you want to make about subjects #1 and #2. Present your first point and explain what is similar or different about your two subjects. Then, compare them in detail using evidence to back up your claims. You'll also need to cite your sources based on your instructor's preferred citation style. Keep in mind that your three body paragraphs will contain a lot of substance and should be longer in the final paper than they appear in this template.

Your second body paragraph will focus on your next point. Introduce it to your instructor and then explain the differences and similarities between your two subjects. As always, you will need evidence to support your argument. Present each piece of evidence when it's appropriate and cite each outside source based on your instructor's preferred style.

This is your final body paragraph. Like the other ones, you will structure this body paragraph around a specific point you want to make about your two subjects. Present your third and final point. Then, elaborate on your two subjects' similarities and differences. By now, you know to back up all your claims with evidence and properly cited sources. Keep it up!

Here's your conclusion. Begin this paragraph with some background information or an eye-catching anecdote about your two subjects. Then, shift back to your thesis statement. To avoid a repetitive paper, try rewording your thesis statement here. Finally, use the last couple of sentences to wrap up your thoughts. That way, your paper's ending does not seem abrupt.