

How to write a Comparative Paragraph

Mixed Paragraphs Method

Address both halves of the comparison in each paragraph. This means that the first paragraph will compare the first aspect of each subject, the second will compare the second, and so on. Make sure to **always address the subjects in the same order**. The advantages of this structure are that it continually keeps the comparison in the mind of the reader and forces you, the writer, to pay equal attention to each side of the argument. **This method is especially recommended for lengthy essays or complicated subjects** where both the writer and reader can easily become lost. Ex:

Paragraph 1: Structure of Old poem X vs Structure of created poem Y

Paragraph 2: Theme of old poem X vs theme of created poem Y

Alternating Paragraphs Method

Make every second paragraph one of the subjects. This means that the first paragraph will compare one aspect of a subject and the second, the same aspect of the other subject; the third paragraph will compare a second aspect of a subject and the fourth, the same aspect of the second subject – and so on, making sure to always address each subject in the same order. The advantages of this structure are that it allows you to discuss points in greater detail and makes it less jarring to tackle two topics that radically different. **This method is especially recommended for essays where some depth and detail are required.** Ex:

Paragraph 1: Structure of Old poem X

Paragraph 2: Structure of created poem Y

One Subject at a Time Method

Completely cover one subject at a time. This means that the first set of body paragraphs is devoted to addressing every aspect of the first subject and the second set, to addressing every aspect of the second subject, making sure to address each aspect in the same order. This method is by far the most dangerous, as your comparison can become both one-sided and difficult for the reader to follow. **This method is only recommended for short essays with simplistic subjects** that the reader can easily remember as (s)he goes along. Ex:

Paragraph 1: Structure of Old poem X

Paragraph 2: Theme of Old poem X

Paragraph 3: Rhyme scheme of Old poem X

Paragraph 1: Structure of created poem Y

Paragraph 2: Theme of created poem Y

Paragraph 3: Rhyme scheme of created poem Y

Name_____

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Choice of Method: