

Name: _____

Miss Crossley

__ LA Period: _____

Date: _____

Informative: Compare/Contrast Essay Outline

Topic: (the title or topic of your essay): _____

I. Introductory Paragraph

- a. Opening Statement or Hook: Start with a strong visual/story, a leading question, or an interesting fact or statistic. This can come from your research/article.

- b. Add information that will connect your thesis to your hook. Answer “What else does my reader need to know about this topic for my point to make sense?” This is called background information. It helps you provide context for your reader.

- c. Thesis Statement: Set it up like this: topic + task statement + supporting details. (List your details in the same order you plan to cover them in your body paragraphs.) Your thesis is a mini version of your whole essay; it condenses all your main points into ONE sentence.

- Compare/Contrast thesis can be written like this: Transportation in the 1800s and today have similar their travel patterns; however, they use different vehicles.

II. Body Paragraph #1: Similarities

- a. Topic Sentence: transition word + topic + task statement + reason. (It might feel redundant, but it will make your points really clear for your reader – which is good.)

- b. Evidence: Put your direct evidence from your research here. You can do this in the form of a quote, a paraphrase, or a summary. Whatever way you do it, be sure to cite your work like this (Author, #). This can be 1-2 sentences long.

- c. Explanation of Evidence: Explain to your reader why this evidence matters. You should clearly tie your topic to your evidence, and show the relevance between the two things. This can be 1-2 sentences long.

- d. Concluding Sentence: Wrap up your points about this reasons and tie it into your next reason.

III. Body Paragraph #2: Differences

- a. Topic Sentence: transition word + topic + task statement + reason. (It might feel redundant, but it will make your points really clear for your reader – which is good.)

- b. Evidence: Put your direct evidence from your research here. You can do this in the form of a quote, a paraphrase, or a summary. Whatever way you do it, be sure to cite your work like this (Author, #). This can be 1-2 sentences long.

- c. Explanation of Evidence: Explain to your reader why this evidence matters. You should clearly tie your topic to your evidence, and show the relevance between the two things. This can be 1-2 sentences long.

- d. Concluding Sentence: Wrap up your points about this reasons and tie it into your next reason.

IV. Concluding Paragraph

- a. Restate your thesis statement (using slightly different words): Transition phrase (like “In conclusion”) + topic + task statement + supporting details.

- b. Supporting Sentences: Summarize/ Restate your main points from your body paragraphs:

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

- c. Closing Sentence: This is the final sentence of your essay, which naturally ends your discussion of the topic.

Notes (use this space to jot down any further notes/feedback you have on your essay):