



# Comparative Essay Format

Essentially, a comparative essay is an essay that compares two similar objects, events, places or people. It is used to highlight similarities and differences between the two, and to give the reader an understanding on this. There are a lot of different things that can be compared, and in your academic life you may be asked to do this many times, in different subjects. This is different to a contrast essay, however many students confuse the two. A contrast essay is where only the differences are stated; whereas a comparison essay speaks of the differences and the similarities in equal amounts. IN the case below we are structuring our essay in an: - Introduction – Body #1, Body #2 – Conclusion - Format.

## Introduction

General Statement (connected to the ideas in thesis – inarguable)  
Introduction to texts and authors (mention connection to key ideas)  
Topics introduced  
Thesis (your main argument – the reason WHY you are conducting the comparison)

## Body paragraphs

**NOTE:** Each body paragraph can have 1-5 points in it. This example has 2.

*Topic Sentence* (abstract opinion)

*Point #1* (**connects to both texts, abstract opinion**)

Lead in to **1<sup>st</sup>** proof (situation and speaker)  
Proof from book 1 (quote) (Harvard method – name of author and page #)  
Comment A – how proof proves point  
Comment B – how point/proof connects to topic  
Transition statement leading to next PROOF

Lead-in to **2<sup>nd</sup>** proof  
Proof from book 2 (quote)  
Comment A  
Comment B  
Connection statement – (note that both books prove this point)  
Transition statement leading to next POINT

*Point #2* (connects to both texts, abstract opinion)

Lead in to 1<sup>st</sup> proof (situation and speaker)

Proof from book 1 (quote)

Comment A

Comment B

Transition statement leading to next PROOF

Lead-in to 2<sup>nd</sup> proof

Proof from book 2 (quote)

Comment A

Comment B

Connection statement (not that both books prove this point)

*Concluding Statement* (review all points and connect to THESIS)

Conclusion

Restate thesis using new vocabulary

Review topics (with specific reference to a key point per topic)

Universal statement (feel free to spend a few sentences here)