**Compare and Contrast Essay** Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ #\_\_\_ BB C O

The purpose of a compare and contrast essay is to show how two different things are similar and different. Once you pick two subjects make sure you are introducing your reader to each of your topics. What are they about? The reader will need some basic information about your two topics.

**Pick two subjects that can be compared and contrasted in a meaningful way.** The first step to writing a successful compare and contrast essay is to pick two subjects that are different enough to be contrasted, but similar enough to be compared. This means that the subjects aren't so different that you can't find a thing they have in common (such as Oreos and kickball) or that they shouldn't be so similar (like Coke and Pepsi) that you don't have much to say about their differences. Here are some topics to consider as you pick your two subjects:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * The careers of two different athletes * The quality of two different restaurants * Two movies * Two novels | * Two weight-loss programs * Two cities * Two historical periods * Two events |

**Paragraph One**

Today I will share with you how \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are both similar and different.

(tell me a little bit about your first topic)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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(tell me a little bit about your second topic)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Do your research to make a list of all of the ways the two subjects are similar and different. Once you've picked your two subjects, you'll need to do your research to figure out exactly how much they have in common and how different they really are. Make a Venn diagram of the two subjects and write the similarities in the part of the circles that overlap. Write the differences in the parts of each subject's circle that does not overlap. This will require you study books, the web, or other sources. Many facts you may know but you will need to share 3-5 similarities and 3-5 differences to fill a full paragraph.

Topic 1

Topic 2

Similar

Differences

Similarities

**Paragraph Two**

Both \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have many similarities. These similarities are: (make sure not to make a list but use full sentences with details describing the similarities. You can use personal connections too. When I first went snow skiing I was surprised to see how similar a water ski is to a snow-ski. You have to place your foot into both types of skis so you will stay attached to the ski.)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Paragraph Three**

Even though \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have many similarities, they also have a lot of differences. These differences are: (make sure not to make a list but use full sentences with details describing the similarities. You can use personal connections too. A water ski is a lot wider at the tip of the ski than a snow ski. The more narrow a snow ski is the easier it is for the individual to lift and turn the ski as the skier is traveling down the hill.

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Write your opinion statement. Your statement will be the one sentence that tells your readers how you feel about both the topics. According to you which one is better? Would you recommend either topic to someone else? Keep your focus on three main points to support your opinion. I feel that snow skiing is an easier sport than water skiing. Most people are able to snow ski, if even down a slight hill easily by the end of the day without falling. I also feel that snow skiing is easier because you get more practice. When you are water skiing only one or two skiers are able to practice at a time. Most people will water ski a total of 20 minutes, but a snow skier will usually ski for 5 to 6 hours in one day. Continue to support your opinion with other points.

**Paragraph Four**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**GRADING**

Students should be able to complete this essay in **4 paragraphs**. A 6th grade writer should be able to use enough details and reflective sentences and informative sentences **to write (1 ½ page) or type a (2-3 page double spaced, size 12 or smaller font)** *essay showing how 2 different things relating to the portfolio topic are similar, and different.* Students will be given time in class to gather information on these 2 topics, as well as time to write about their topic (outside time at home may be necessary to finish the assignment on time). Each student should be prepared to include **1-2 web addresses or book resources** that they used to write their essays and listed it on the bottom of the final essay.

If you do not want to be left behind then the essay must be finished by: Monday May 2nd