

Compare and Contrast Essay Guidelines

1. Fill out one of the graphic organizers to help you decide what you will be comparing and contrasting.
2. Choose two-three main points that you will cover in your essay. You should choose these from your interview responses. Then craft your thesis statement.
3. Choose which organizational method you will use (Whole-to-Whole, Similarities-to-Differences, or Point-by-Point).
4. Be sure you discuss the significance behind the similarities and differences.
 - After discussing the similarities and differences between Ogallala then and Ogallala now, include a paragraph (this can be included in the conclusion if you can make it work) that answers this question: Has Ogallala changed for the better or for the worse? Then explain why you think the way you do.
 - For essay option 2: After discussing the similarities and differences between an adult's perception of the community and a teenager's perception of the community, include a paragraph (this can be included in the conclusion if you can make it work) that answers this question: If your perceptions are the same as an adult's, why? If they are different, why? When you are composing this paragraph, think about why teenagers think they way they do and why adults think the way they do. What influences our perceptions?
5. Then begin crafting your essay! You will be scored on both ideas and organization. Be sure to include an author's note on each draft!
6. This essay will be worth a total of 50 points. You will need to include your Q&A interviews, your graphic organizers, your rough draft, and your final draft.