

Comparative Essay Outline Possibilities

There is no perfect formula or “right” way for writing a Paper 2. Instead, there are many right ways to write it. These are just some of the approaches to writing it and they are just a guide. You may write more. You may write less. You may find that you have only two comparative points but they are significant and have both breadth and depth. In a case like this, just two comparative points would be fine. You need to decide whether your comparative points (however many or few) have answered the question thoroughly and with balance. Obviously a single comparative point would mean depth but no breadth and if you are discussing four comparative points, you may risk having breadth but insufficient depth. Two or three comparative points seems to be the “sweet spot”. This is only meant to give you an idea of what you may choose to do in terms of organizing your Paper 2. Each approach has strengths and weaknesses and you will need to decide on which will work best for you for a particular.

Difference in Similarity Method

Introduction with comparative thesis

Body paragraph 1 - comparative idea 1 - similarities between the two works

Body paragraph 2 - comparative idea 1 - differences in the similarity

Body paragraph 3 - comparative idea 2 - similarities between the two works

Body paragraph 4 - comparative idea 2 - differences in the similarity

Body paragraph 5 - comparative idea 3 - similarities between the two works

Body paragraph 6 - comparative idea 3 - differences in the similarity

Conclusion

Alternating Method (Similarity then difference)

Introduction with comparative thesis

Body paragraph 1 - comparative idea 1 - Text A and Text B similarities

Body paragraph 2 - comparative idea 1 - Text A and Text B differences

Body paragraph 3 - comparative idea 2 - Text A and Text B similarities

Body paragraph 4 - comparative idea 2 - Text A and Text B differences

Body paragraph 5 - comparative idea 3 - Text A and Text B similarities

Body paragraph 6 - comparative idea 3 - Text A and Text B differences

Conclusion

Alternating Method (Similarity and Difference)

Introduction with comparative thesis

Body paragraph 1 - comparative idea 1 - Text A

Body paragraph 2 - comparative idea 1 - Text B with link to Text A (similarity and difference)

Body paragraph 3 - comparative idea 2 - Text A

Body paragraph 4 - comparative idea 2 - Text B with link to Text A (similarity and difference)

Body paragraph 5 - comparative idea 3 - Text A

Body paragraph 6 - comparative idea 3 - Text B with link to Text A (similarity and difference)

Conclusion

Block Method

Introduction with comparative thesis

Body paragraph 1 - comparative idea 1 - Text A

Body paragraph 2 - comparative idea 2 - Text A

Body paragraph 3 - comparative idea 3 - Text A

Body paragraph 4 - comparative idea 1 - Text B with link to Text A (similarity and difference)

Body paragraph 5 - comparative idea 2 - Text B with link to Text A (similarity and difference)

Body paragraph 6 - comparative idea 3 - Text B with link to Text A (similarity and difference)

Conclusion

Similarity then Difference Method

Introduction with comparative thesis

Body paragraph 1 - Similarities in content

Body paragraph 2 - Similarities in choices

Body paragraph 3 - Differences in content

Body paragraph 4 - Differences in choices

Conclusion

Mixed Approach Method

Introduction with comparative thesis

Body paragraph 1 - Text A

Body paragraph 2 - Similarities to Text B

Body paragraph 3 - Differences to Text B

Body paragraph 4 - Text B

Conclusion

Essentials

Introduction

1. Hook - introduce and explore the topic of the discussion, possibly even define the key concept or idea
2. Summary statement - introduce both works in relation to the question. Keep it brief - maximum of two sentences.
3. Clear comparative thesis statement that includes some type of roadmap for the discussion (i.e. they key points to the comparative discussion).

Body paragraphs

1. Ensure you are answering the question throughout
2. Detailed references throughout
3. Pay attention to authorial choice and literary features and the effect of these choices
4. Always comparing and contrasting using comparative and contrasting language

Evidence could include aspects such as:

- plot (including conflict, inciting event, climax, tension, denouement)
- point of view (the position or stance of the work's narrator or speaker)
- character
- structure and organisation
- setting (the social, cultural, and temporal environment of the work)
- ideas and themes (don't use this as evidence per se but rather use it as part of your analysis and interpretation when discussing the other authorial choices i.e. how these authorial choices are used to develop the theme).
- imagery (the ways in which the work links to the senses)
- general writing style (imagery would fall under this in all likelihood)
- symbolism, motif and allegory
- tone and mood (the ways in which writers seek to control a reader's attitudes and feelings)

- genre and form

Conclusion

1. Restate the thesis.
2. Synthesise the ideas and show how they are connected and linked in order to show some further implication i.e.e make bigger connection.
3. Consider the deeper idea that is expressed in the question and in the works discussed.

Vocabulary for comparison and contrast

Similarity

likewise

in the same way

similarly

along the same lines

Contrasting

nevertheless

although

by contrast

but

conversely

however

in contrast

even though

nonetheless

whereas

on the contrary

while

on the other hand

yet

despite

regardless