

Compare or Contrast Topic Sentences

For compare or contrast writing assignments, ideas must be organized to show how ideas or things are alike or different.

Use any of the topic sentence strategies you have studied so far for these writing tasks. The following words and phrases are useful in compare and contrast essays and reports:

- Alike
- Better
- Change
- Compare
- Contrast
- Differ
- Differences
- Different
- Identical
- In common
- Less
- Like
- More
- Opposite
- Relate
- Resemble
- Share
- Similar
- Similarities
- The same
- Twins
- Unlike
- Variations
- Varied
- Vary
- Worse

Examples

- Indian elephants **resemble** African elephants but are significantly smaller.
- The engineering of modern football helmets **differs** greatly from that of the leather helmets players used to wear.
- The arguments of the two political parties may sound very **different**, but their positions on the issue are nearly **identical**.
- At a glance, bananas and plantains may seem **similar**, but one bite of each will quickly reveal **differences**.
- The size of ocean waves **varies** due to three main factors: wind, water depth, and water currents.
- In the end, Achilles proved the **better** warrior when **compared** with any of his Trojan foes or Greek allies.
- North Carolina and South Carolina may **share** a name and a coastline, but they are **unlike** in many ways.
- Astrology and astronomy have **related** names but little **in common**: one is based **more** in myth or superstition, and the other is based on science.