

COMP

3



13

Comparison- Contrast

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1 Understand how to read comparison-contrast writing**
- 2 Use subject-by-subject or trait-by-trait organization**
- 3 Cite details to support and clarify compare-contrast claims**
- 4 Use comparison-contrast strategies to analyze, illustrate, or define concepts**
- 5 Write, revise, and edit a comparison-contrast essay**



Rhetorical Situation for Comparison-Contrast Writing

- Purpose - Writers compare and contrast in order to understand similarities and differences in subjects
- Audience - Anybody whom the writer wishes to enlighten by deepening their understanding of topics by comparative analysis
- Topic - People, events, phenomena, technologies, problems, products, stories



Comparison-Contrast Practices

- Criteria used - Writers anchor their analyses on specific points of comparison
- Organization - Either by dealing with one topic fully and then moving to another or by holding up topics side by side
- Point of the comparison - To illuminate on a topic through a key idea by connections and distinctions



Use Subject-by-Subject or Trait-by-Trait Organization

- Essay titled “Sethe in Beloved and Orleanna in Poisonwood Bible: Isolation, Children, and Getting Out” by student writer Rachel De Smith
 - *Uses trait-by-trait organization to analyze characters from two novels*
 - *Side-by-side compare-contrast reasoning is effective in analyzing both writings*
 - *Illustrates the similarities between two seemingly different characters*
 - *Writer’s voice is informed and empathetic*

Cite Details to Support and Clarify Compare-Contrast Claims

- “Shrouded in Contradiction” by Gelareh Asayeh
 - *Analyzes how traditional Islamic clothing that women in Iran wear affect their sense of self*
 - *Writer compares and contrasts advantages and disadvantages of Islamic clothing*
 - *Difficulty of choosing one side over other makes the writer use limited certainty terms*
 - *The opening and closing sentences reveal both the like and dislike author has for the hijab*

Use Comparison-Contrast Strategies to Analyze, Illustrate or Define Concepts

- “Shades of Prejudice” by Shanker Vedantam, a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University
 - *Defines and analyzes colorism by using comparison-contrast to examine, illustrate, or define concepts*
 - *Writer uses anecdotes to open and close the essay to trigger the right emotions in the minds of readers*
 - *Writer considers colorism to be different from racism and that it is both an intra-racial and interracial problem*



Write, Revise, and Edit a Compare-Contrast Essay

- Planning
 - *Select a topic*
 - *Get the big picture*
 - *Gather information*
 - *Draft a working thesis*
 - *Get organized*
 - Subject by subject - For short and simple comparisons
 - Trait by trait - For longer and complex comparisons



Write, Revise, and Edit a Compare-Contrast Essay

- Write your first draft
 - *Subject-by-subject pattern*
 - *Trait-by-trait pattern*
- Revising
 - *Get feedback*
 - *Rework your draft*
 - Ideas
 - Organization
 - Voice



Write, Revise, and Edit a Compare-Contrast Essay

- Carefully edit your essay; ensure that:
 - *Words are precise and defined as needed*
 - *Sentences are clear, well reasoned, varied in structure, and smooth*
 - *Copy is correct, clean, and properly formatted*
 - *Page design is attractive and follows MLA or APA guidelines*
- Publish the essay

SUMMARY

- By comparing and contrasting two subjects we get a clear insight about both
- Writers in colleges and the workplace use this method as an analytical strategy
- Chapter provides guidelines on how to read and write comparison-contrast documents

