

Compare/Contrast Scoring Guide

	4	3	2	1
Organization	The introduction contains a clearly stated thesis/ claim; the body fully and clearly compares and contrasts, using specific details; the conclusion effectively ends the writing; effective and varied transitions are used throughout.	The introduction contains a thesis; the body compares and contrasts; the conclusion ends the essay; transitions are used throughout.	The introduction contains a thesis, but the sentence may be unclear, imprecise, or undeveloped; the body compares and contrasts, but may lack supporting details; the conclusion does not effectively end the essay; more or better transitions are needed throughout.	The introduction lacks a thesis; the body does not compare and contrast; the conclusion is missing or repetitive; and/or the writing lacks transitions.
Elements of Compare/ Contrast Writing	The paper breaks the information into subject-by-subject or point-by-point structure. It follows a consistent order when discussing the comparison.	The paper breaks the information into subject-by-subject or point-by-point structure but does not follow a consistent order when discussing the comparison.	The paper breaks the information into subject-by-subject or point-by-point structure, but some information is in the wrong section. Some details are not in a logical or expected order, and this distracts the reader.	Many details are not in a logical or expected order. There is little effective comparing or contrasting.
Grammar, Usage, Mechanics, and Spelling	There are few or no errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling.	There are some errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling	Errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling interfere with the audience's understanding of the process.	Serious and numerous errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling make understand the essay very difficult.
Style (Voice/Word Choice)	The writer has chosen a voice appropriate for the topic, purpose, and audience. The writer demonstrates deep commitment to the topic. The writing is expressive, engaging, or sincere. Word choice is consistently precise and impactful.	A voice is present. The writer seems committed to the topic, and there may be a sense of "writing to be read." In places, the writing is expressive, engaging, or sincere.	The writer's commitment to the topic seems inconsistent. A sense of the writer may emerge at times; however, the voice is at time either inappropriate or ineffective. Many words are imprecise, redundant, or confusing.	The writing provides little sense of involvement or commitment. There is no evidence that the writer has chosen a suitable voice. Word choices are mostly imprecise, redundant, or confusing.
Sentence Fluency	The writing has an effective flow and rhythm. Sentences show a high degree of craftsmanship, with consistently strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable.	The writing flows; however, connections between phrases or sentences may be less than fluid. Sentence patterns are somewhat varied, contributing to ease in oral reading.	The writing tends to be mechanical rather than fluid. Occasional awkward constructions may force the reader to slow down or reread.	The writing tends to be either choppy or rambling. Awkward constructions often force the reader to slow down or reread.