

Compare and Contrast Essay Outline

Middle School

The purpose of a compare and contrast essay is to examine two things of interest and tell the reader about the **similarities and differences** between them.

There are **many different formats** for writing a compare and contrast essay. For the purpose of this assignment, we will focus on the most common format called the **Feature by Feature Format**, where we compare and contrast (similarities and differences) between two subjects (i.e. Singapore versus Trinidad, etc.) on three different features about the subjects (i.e. geography, people, and food, etc.)

Basic Structure:

1st Paragraph – Introduction

General Topic Sentence(s) – catch the reader’s attention

Brief background information about the two subjects

THESIS STATEMENT

Brief overview of the three features you are comparing and contrasting

2nd Paragraph –Personality Inventory

Transition word/phrase

General sentence about personality inventory

Details of inventory/how it relates to your choices

3rd Paragraph – Similarities & Differences of 2nd Feature

Transition word/phrase

General Topic Sentence – State 2nd feature you are comparing & contrasting

State similarities between the two subjects about 2nd feature

State differences between the two subjects about 2nd feature

4th Paragraph – Similarities & Differences of 3rd Feature

Transition word/phrase

General Topic Sentence – State 3rd feature you are comparing & contrasting

State similarities between the two subjects about 3rd feature

State differences between the two subjects about 3rd feature

5th Paragraph – Conclusion

Transition word/phrase

Re-state **THESIS STATEMENT**

Briefly summarise the three features that you are comparing and contrasting

Closing Statement

Compare and Contrast Essay: SAMPLE OUTLINE

FEATURE BY FEATURE (OR POINT BY POINT) FORMAT

Subject #1	Subject #2
Singapore	Trinidad

THESIS:

Both Singapore and Trinidad are tropical island paradises with dynamic and vibrant cultures, however there are many differences between the two which makes each one unique.

POINT #1: GEOGRAPHY

Similarities between Singapore and Trinidad

- both Singapore and Trinidad are island nations located in tropics close to the equator
- both are warm all year round where it never snows
- both are relatively small countries compared to Canada, China, and the United States

Differences between Singapore and Trinidad

- Singapore is located in Southeast Asia (close to Malaysia and Indonesia)
- Trinidad is located in the Caribbean off the coast of South America close to Venezuela
- Trinidad is larger than Singapore (4,768 km² versus 710.2 km²)
- Trinidad is also more mountainous while Singapore is relatively flat
- Singapore is more urban, with a much larger proportion of its land area built up as a city

POINT #2: PEOPLE

Similarities between Singapore and Trinidad

- Both Singapore and Trinidad are multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, and multi-religious countries
- Historically, tensions existed between the various ethnic groups in both countries
- However, presently relations are much better between the various ethnic groups in both countries
- As a result of their ethnic diversity, both Singapore and Trinidad have statutory holidays which honour the cultures of its various ethnic groups

Differences between Singapore and Trinidad

- Singapore's population is almost exclusively Asian, with Chinese, Indians, and Malay Muslims forming almost the entire population
- Trinidad's population is equally split between Africans and Asians (mostly Indians and Chinese)
- Trinidad also has a very large mixed-race (i.e. African-European, African-Indian, African-Chinese, etc.) population compared to Singapore
- While Singapore honours its diversity with having four official languages (Chinese, Tamil, Malay, and English), Trinidad only has English as its official language, though Hindi, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic are also spoken on the island

POINT #3: FOOD

Similarities between Singapore and Trinidad

- Spicy food is very common in Singaporean and Trinidadian cuisine
- Both countries' cuisines are strongly influenced by Indian and Chinese cuisine due to the local Indian and Chinese populations – curry is very popular in both countries
- Due to Singapore's and Trinidad's British colonial past, British customs and foods are also very common

Differences between Singapore and Trinidad

- Singapore's cuisine has a stronger Chinese and Indian influence, whereas Trinidad has a stronger African and European influence, even though the Chinese and Indian influence in Trinidadian food is quite strong
- Singapore's cuisine is also highly influenced by that of its neighbouring countries of Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia
- Due to Singapore's large Muslim population and its proximity to predominately Muslim countries, the availability of Halal food is much more widespread than Trinidad, even though Trinidad does have a significant Muslim population