

## Compare and Contrast Essay Outline – Block Format

**BLOCK FORMAT:** In this format, the writer compares and/or contrasts two subjects but focuses on only one subject per body paragraph and discusses all of the points that pertain to that subject within each body paragraph.

### **Paragraph 1 - Introduction**

- A. If the prompt says you're writing a letter, be sure to include a salutation.

Example: Dear Neighborhood Officials,

- B. **Attention-grabbing hook** (question, scene, interesting fact or quote, setting a scene, etc.)

This might be a statement about why people find the topic interesting or important, something the two subjects have in common, or a question.

- C. **Introduce the subjects** (context)

Name the two subjects being compared and/or contrasted.

- D. **Thesis Statement** (main-idea sentence) state that the subjects are very similar, very different or have many important (or interesting) similarities and differences.

### **Paragraph 2 – The First Subject**

- A. State the points of comparison/contrast of the **first** subject.  
B. Be sure to include examples proving the similarities and/or differences exist.  
Do not mention the second subject.

### **Paragraph 3 – The Second Subject**

- A. Begin the next paragraph with a transition showing you are comparing the **second** subject to the first. NOTE: Use transitional words such as like, similar to, also, unlike, on the other hand, in contrast.  
B. State the points of comparison/contrast of the **second** subject.  
C. Again, be sure to include examples proving the similarities and/or differences exist.

### **Paragraph 4 - Conclusion Paragraph**

- A. In the final paragraph, give a brief, general summary of the most important similarities and differences.  
B. End with a wrap-up statement.  
C. If the prompt says you're writing a letter, be sure to end with: