

Comparison-Contrast Essay

Attention-grabbing opener

Main idea statement

Subject 1: First point of comparison

Supporting details

Second point of comparison

Supporting details

Third point of comparison

Supporting details

Football: On the Field or on the Screen?

The smell of hot popcorn and hot dogs drifts through the stadium. On the field, your team scores a touchdown and the crowd cheers. This is a typical afternoon playing one of your favorite sports. But now, thanks to technology, you don't have to run around in the hot sun to play football. You can flip on a television or computer screen and pop in a game of video football. Will you head to the field with your friends or pick up your joystick and sit down in front of the screen? Before you make your choice, think about the differences between football and video football. They each require different equipment, develop different skills, and have different safety issues.

Football and video football are both fun to play, but football requires more equipment and much more physical strength. In order to play, you must have a football field, enough people to form two teams, protective gear for each player, and, of course, a football. In order for your team to win, you probably need to have several strong players. If you have the equipment and the physical strength to play football, you can develop many important skills from this sport. It's a great way to build more muscle, improve your physical fitness, and learn to work with a team. However, although playing football develops many skills, it can also be dangerous. Bruises, sprains, and broken arms and legs are common football injuries. More serious injuries such as neck breaks and concussions are also possible but not as common.

Comparison-Contrast Essay *continued*

Subject 2

First point of comparison

Supporting details

Second point of comparison

Supporting details

Third point of comparison

Supporting details

Summary of body paragraphs

Video football is easier to play than football. It does not have as many requirements. You need either a television and a video game system or a computer and the game software. Video football does not require teammates, and you don't need to be in shape in order to play. However, you will need good hand-eye coordination. While video football is easier to play, it does not develop as many skills as football. It can improve your reflexes, but playing a video game will not develop physical fitness or teamwork skills. On the other hand, video football is not as dangerous as football. You are not likely to twist an ankle or bruise your shoulder, but you could get tired eyes, blurred vision, headaches, and back or neck aches.

It makes sense that football and video football would have several similarities, since video football is based on football. However, they are different in many ways. Football develops many skills, but it requires equipment, a team, and physical strength. It can also be dangerous. Video football does not develop as many skills, but it's not as dangerous and it requires less equipment, no team, and no physical strength. Whether you choose to play football, video football, or both, you are sure to have fun.

Comparison-Contrast Essay

Definition

A **comparison-contrast essay** lets you look at how two things are alike and how they are different. You might write a comparison-contrast essay to explain something to other people, or you might write one to help you make a good decision.

Many comparison-contrast essays use the structure illustrated in the framework below. Print this framework and use it as a guide when you write your own comparison-contrast essay.

Framework

Directions and Explanations

Introduction

- Attention-grabbing opener
- Main idea statement

Hook your reader Grab your reader's attention quickly with an interesting introduction. Begin with a mysterious statement, a funny story, a question, or an interesting description.

State your main idea Introduce your subjects and explain whether you will compare them, contrast them, or both.



Body

- Subject #1
 - Point of comparison #1 (with logical support)
 - Point of comparison #2 (with logical support)
- Subject #2
 - Point of comparison #1 (with logical support)
 - Point of comparison #2 (with logical support)

Organize your points Introduce your first subject and discuss all points of comparison. Then, write about your second subject and discuss all points of comparison. Be sure to write about each point of comparison in the same order.

Use details to support each point Make sure to support each point of comparison with evidence. Use examples, stories that prove a point, or sensory details.



Conclusion

- Summary of body paragraphs

Sum it up Sum up the results of your analysis. Restate the main idea from the introduction. Then, try to finish up with a statement that gives your readers something to consider.