Compare and Contrast Essay

Language – Writing

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 km^2 versus 710.2 km^2)
- 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

Compare and Contrast Essay: PUTTING ESSAY TOGETHER

[1] In the middle of the cold Canadian winters, have you ever thought about escaping to somewhere warm to get away from all the cold and snow? [2] Singapore, nicknamed "Lion City", and Trinidad, also known as the land of soca, calypso, and the steel pan, come to many people's minds when thinking of a warm place to escape to. **[3] While both Singapore and Trinidad are tropical island paradises with dynamic and vibrant cultures, there are many differences between the two which makes each one unique.** [4] The geography, people, and food of both Singapore and Trinidad show many similarities, yet many differences as well.	**1st Paragraph – Introduction** [1] General topic sentence(s) [2] Brief background information **[3] Thesis statement** [4] Brief overview of the three features
[5] First, [6] there are many similarities and differences between the geography of Singapore and Trinidad. [7] Both Singapore and Trinidad are island nations located in tropics close to the equator. The climate in both countries is warm all year round and it never snows. Furthermore, they are relatively small compared to countries like Canada, China, and the United States. [8] **However**, Singapore is located in Southeast Asia, close to Malaysia and Indonesia, while Trinidad is located in the Caribbean off the coast of South America near Venezuela. Although both island nations, Trinidad's land area is about seven times as large as Singapore's. Trinidad is also more mountainous while Singapore is relatively flat. Furthermore, Singapore is mostly urban and built-up, while Trinidad is not.	**2nd Paragraph – Discuss 1st Feature** [5] Transition word/phrase [6] State 1st feature that will be discussed [7] State similarities [8] State differences
[9] In addition to geography, [10] the people of Singapore and Trinidad share many things in common, but each still retain their unique differences as well. [11] Singapore and Trinidad are both 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. As a result of their ethnic diversity, both Singapore and Trinidad have statutory holidays which honour the cultures and religions of its various ethnic groups. [12] **Despite the similarities**, they are some key differences. 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, which mostly consists of Indians and Chinese. Trinidad also has a very large mixed-race population as well. While Singapore honours its diversity with having four official languages (Chinese, Tamil, Malay, and English), Trinidad only has English as its official language, although Hindi, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic are also spoken on the island.	**3rd Paragraph – Discuss 2nd Feature** [9] Transition word/phrase [10] State 2nd feature that will be discussed [11] State similarities [12] State differences
[13] Finally, [14] the food of Singapore and Trinidad are quite similar in many ways, yet they each remain distinct from each other. [15] Spicy food is very common in Singaporean and Trinidadian cuisine. Both countries' cuisines are strongly influenced by Indian and Chinese cuisine due to the large 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. [16] **Nevertheless**, Singapore's cuisine has a stronger Chinese and Indian influence compared to Trinidad's cuisine, which has a stronger African and European influence. 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 other predominately Muslim countries, the availability of Halal food is much more widespread than Trinidad, even though Trinidad does have a significant Muslim population.	**4th Paragraph – Discuss 3rd Feature** [13] Transition word/phrase [14] State 3rd feature that will be discussed [15] State similarities [16] State differences
[17] As illustrated, **[18] despite the many similarities between Singapore and Trinidad, each of those tropical paradises contain many unique aspects as well.** [19] While the geography, people, and food share many similarities, the differences between make each of these tropical islands unique from each other. [20] If you are still thinking about escaping the cold Canadian winters to a tropical island paradise, you have to make sure you visit because Singapore and Trinidad both have a distinct and vibrant culture that you must experience.	**5th Paragraph – Conclusion** [17] Transition word/phrase **[18] Re-state thesis statement** [19] Briefly summarise the three features [20] Closing sentence

Assessment Rubric for Compare and Contrast Essay

	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
Knowledge and Understanding Follow basic structure of a compare and contrast essay (introduction, thesis statement, three supporting paragraphs, similarities and differences between two subjects, transition words/phrases conclusion)	Your essay contains few of the elements of a compare and contrast essay	Your essay contains some of the elements of a compare and contrast essay	Your essay contains most of the elements of a compare and contrast essay	Your essay contains all of the elements of a compare and contrast essay
Thinking Generating ideas (similarities and differences in three distinct features between two subjects)	Your ideas supporting examples and evidence are incomplete and illogical	Your ideas and supporting examples and evidence are somewhat complete and/or somewhat logical	Your ideas and supporting examples and evidence are mostly complete and logical	Your ideas and supporting examples and evidence are thoroughly complete and very logical
Communication Use of conventions, such as spelling, sentence structure, and subject-verb agreement	Your essay contains many spelling mistakes, run-on sentences, sentence fragments, and subject-verb agreement errors	Your essay contains some spelling mistakes, run-on sentences, sentence fragments, and subject-verb agreement errors	Your essay contains very few spelling mistakes, run-on sentences, sentence fragments, and subject-verb agreement errors	Your essay is free from spelling mistakes, run-on sentences, sentence fragments, and subject-verb agreement errors
Application Comparing and contrasting between two different subjects	Your comparison and contrast between two different subjects are not well-developed and illogical	Your comparison and contrast between two different subjects are somewhat developed and logical	Your comparison and contrast between two different subjects are completely developed and logical	Your comparison and contrast between two different subjects are clearly developed and logical
Research/Sources Source of information and reliability of sources used	Only one reliable source used	Only two different and reliable sources used	Three or more different and reliable sources used	Three or more different and reliable sources used and all sources are cited properly in essay
OVERALL MARK	1-　　1　　1+	2-　　2　　2+	3-　　3　　3+	4-　　4　　4+

OVERALL MARK:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: