

# Compare & Contrast Essay: Topic Brainstorming Worksheet

## 1. Assignment Requirements

- Essay length: \_\_\_\_\_
- Required subject area: \_\_\_\_\_
- Specific instructions or restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Initial Topic Ideas

List 5–10 possible pairs of subjects you might compare.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ vs \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ vs \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ vs \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ vs \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ vs \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_ vs \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_ vs \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Same Category Check

Do both subjects belong to the same category or function?

- Topic 1: Yes / No
- Topic 2: Yes / No
- Topic 3: Yes / No
- Topic 4: Yes / No

(If "No," remove or revise the topic.)

## 4. Similarities & Differences Analysis

For each viable pair, list at least three similarities AND three differences.

**Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_ vs \_\_\_\_\_

**Similarities:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Differences:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Available Information Check

Is there enough credible information about both subjects?

- Sources available? Yes / No
- Balanced information for both subjects? Yes / No
- At least 3 credible references for each? Yes / No

If your answer is “No,” reconsider the topic.

## 6. Scope Evaluation

Is the topic appropriate for the essay length?

- Too broad / Too narrow / Just right  
If too broad, narrow it.  
If too narrow, expand criteria or context.

## 7. Personal Interest Rating

Rate your interest in each topic (1–5).

- Topic 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- Topic 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- Topic 3: \_\_\_\_\_
- Topic 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Choose the topic with the highest balance of interest + feasibility.

## 8. Final Topic Selection

Write your final selected topic:

\_\_\_\_\_

## 9. Preliminary Thesis Direction

What might this comparison reveal?

(Example: differences in effectiveness, patterns across time, contrasting philosophies, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_