

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.)
