

Compare & Contrast Essay: Topic Evaluation Checklist

Use this checklist to evaluate whether your chosen topic meets all essential requirements for a strong compare and contrast essay.

1. Same Category Requirement

Both subjects belong to the same logical category or serve similar functions.

- Yes / No
If **No**, revise or replace the topic.

2. Meaningful Similarities

There are at least three significant similarities between the subjects.

- Yes / No
List examples:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3. Meaningful Differences

There are at least three notable differences worth analyzing.

- Yes / No
List examples:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. Analytical Potential

The comparison generates natural questions such as:

- What do these similarities reveal?
- Why do these differences exist?
- Yes / No

If analysis feels forced or superficial, reconsider the topic.

5. Research Availability

You can find enough credible information on both subjects.

- At least three reliable sources per subject: Yes / No
- Balanced information for both sides: Yes / No

If information is heavily one-sided, adjust the topic.

6. Appropriate Scope

The topic fits the assigned word count or page limit.

- Too broad / Too narrow / Appropriate
Broad topics need narrowing; narrow topics may require expanding comparison criteria.

7. Personal Interest

You find the topic genuinely engaging and manageable.

- Yes / No
Interest Level (1–5): _____

8. Assignment Compatibility

The topic meets all instructor guidelines, including restrictions.

- Yes / No
If No, revise immediately.

9. Originality

The topic avoids clichés, overly common comparisons, or exhausted subjects unless you have a fresh analytical angle.

- Yes / No

10. Final Verdict

The topic meets at least 8 out of 10 checklist criteria.

- Yes / No

If **Yes**, proceed with thesis development.

If **No**, choose or refine another topic.