Writing About Comparisons & Contrasts
Coming of Age – Junior English
Mrs. Hess
Approach to the quest.
Learning Goals

• Examine a Model Paragraph of Comparison & Contrast
• Analyzing What Makes Comparison & Contrast Effective
• Learning Ways to Organize a Comparison-Contrast Paragraph
• Writing a Practice Comparison-Contrast Paragraph
• Comparison = How people or things are similar
• Contrast = How they are different
• A paragraph using comparison-contrast discusses both similarities and differences.
  • Organize
  • Explain
  • Illustrate

The Similarities & Differences in a Way That Makes Sense

A Model Paragraph
2 Main Strategies

• **BLOCK METHOD (Whole-to-Whole):** Character from novel is described completely then character from the film is described completely. Comparisons are drawn while describing book character, or after describing movie character.

• **ALTERNATING METHOD (Part-to-Part):** One part of book club character is described (i.e. call), the compared to call of movie character. Then return to book and discuss his obstacles, followed by a comparison to the obstacles of movie character, etc. You must draw a comparison between any point you bring up on one subject with a comparison with the other subject. For example, if you discuss the helpers/guides of the book club character, you must compare it with the helpers/guides of the movie character.

Both can be very effective techniques!
Three is the magic number!!!!

What is the magic of supports number?
• **Don’t Oversimplify:** Very little is black or white, good or evil… Most things in life are more complex.

• **Don’t Use Circular Reasoning:** Give good reasons to support your claims. Don’t just say, “Gerry was better because I liked him” that basically means the same thing. Give a concrete reasons like: believable or credible.

• **Be Consistent in Your Organization:** Make comparisons & contrasts easy to understand for the reader. If you compare call, helpers/guides, and “treasure” for the book character, do the same for movie character. Also, keep them in the same order!
What is the magic number?
**TOPIC SENTENCE:** Introduction of the Two Topics to be Compared

**BODY:** Examination of topics, first one and then the other

**TOPIC 1:**

- Point A
- Point B
- Point C

**TOPIC 2:**

- Point A
- Point B
- Point C

**CONCLUSION:** Evaluation of Topics Covered

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**Blueprint for Comparison:**

(Whole-to-Whole)
ACT-Minimum Magic number is ????
**TOPIC SENTENCE:** Introduction of the Two Topics to be Compared

**BODY:** Examination of each point, first with one topic and then with the other.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POINT A:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic 1</td>
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<td>Topic 2</td>
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**CONCLUSION:** Evaluation of Topics Covered

**Blueprint for Comparison:** (Part-to-Part)
• Comparison-Contrast Paragraph

• Write a paper to show the difference or similarity in the way a character from *Remember the Titans* and a character from your Book Club novel approach the outside world.

• Compare and contrast the characters.

• Be sure to use a distinct approach.

**Writing Assignment**
• Write a topic sentence that states the central claim
• Use either whole-to-whole or part-to part comparison
• Add transitions to introduce the points of comparison
• Emphasize similarities & differences
• Conclude with a statement that sums up the main points or Packs a Punch!

Compose the Paragraph
## Revision Checklist:

1. Does topic sentence clearly establish the comparison or contrast?  
2. Is the purpose of the comparison or contrast clear?  
3. Does the organization follow a consistent pattern (i.e. whole-to-whole or part-to-part)?  
4. Do any of the comparison or contrasts need further explanation or illustration?  
5. Are there clear transitions between the comparisons or contrasts?  
6. Does the conclusion follow logically from the points of comparison or contrast?  
7. Is the language clear throughout?

**IF THE ANSWER IS NO…. REVISE!**
What questions do you have?