

# Comparison/Contrast

Today in class choose two people to compare & contrast: one living, one dead. Gather background information to help create the beginnings of your paper. Focus your writing on both the differences & similarities between the two subjects. Due 04.08.10.

## EXAMPLE SUBJECTS

Dave Matthews	Bob Marley
George Clooney	Humphrey Bogart
Venus Williams	Arthur Ashe
Gloria Steinem	Susan B. Anthony

Notice these pairings have a common factor between them. When you make your selection, be sure the candidates come from the same industry or background to merit a comparison. Race nor gender need to be a commonality.

It is not necessary that the common factor be obvious, at first. What makes this pattern interesting for readers is when the writer chooses two dissimilar people and then finds strong, subtle similarities.

## OBJECTIVES || PART ONE:

01. Isolate a topic based on your subjects.
02. Isolate a strong concept of the direction you will take the paper.
03. Find two articles on the subjects in database, as shown in demo.
04. Quote or paraphrase material collected; use signal phrases.
05. Cite sources and generate tentative works cited information.

“Arthur Ashe.” *St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture*. 5 vols.

St. James Press, 2000. *Biography Resource Center*. Farmington Hills, MI:

Gale, 2010. Web. 03.26.10.

OBJECTIVES || PART TWO:

01. Compose a strong thesis which states an obvious fact regarding the two subjects.  
Declare a personal observation or opinion about the two subjects.
02. Keep the statement between 1 to 2 sentences in length. Do not exceed the limit.  
Topic + fact + observation = thesis statement.  
Remember, your paper's focus must defend your statement.
03. At this stage, personal opinions are not acceptable.
04. Create four (or more) sentences to introduce the proposed thesis statement.  
Sentence 1: declare your topic in general terms  
Sentence 2-4: display necessary background information on your subjects  
to prepare your audience for the thesis.  
Sentence 5: state and underline your thesis statement.
05. Questions to consider at this stage:
  - i. What basic similarities/differences exist between the subjects?
  - ii. Are the differences more obvious than the similarities?
  - iii. Is your opinion based on background information or emotions?
  - iv. Does your thesis statement show what direction the paper will follow?

OBJECTIVES || PART THREE:

01. The essay must be at least two full pages, double spaced.
02. The thesis statement must clearly indicate the direction of the composition.
03. The composition follows the pattern outlined in the introduction:  
full comparison—, full contrast—, or a mix between comparison/contrast.
04. Transitions should show obvious direction throughout composition;  
they must confirm what strategy you are using in subsequent paragraphs.
05. Paragraphs must show a parallel structure throughout the essay.  
Equal time must be given to both subjects.
07. Provide examples which defend your thesis.
08. Follow correct MLA standards for citation.
09. The conclusion should isolate a preference for one of the two subjects— or  
indicate that the subjects are of equal value—, or indicate that the subjects are  
both without value.
10. Generate a proper Work Cited page at close of document.

# assignment 06