

Criteria for a Compare/Contrast Essay

(GRADE 8)

Content **45%**

- Working title
- Introduction ending in a focus statement that sets essay up for what will be compared and contrasted
- Four to five paragraphs: Discuss the history in the selection, its accuracy, and compare the selection's historical data to research from that period.
- Concluding paragraph that brings ideas together

Style (craft and technique) **30%**

- Strong verbs
- Specific nouns
- Transitions between paragraphs
- Varied sentence openings

Writing Conventions **25%**

- Prepositional phrases to vary sentence openings and add details
- Complete sentences; repair run-on sentences.
- Commas in compound and complex sentences