

Tips for Planning a Compare/Contrast Essay

- * **Reread your notes** and list the points you want to make.
- * **Decide on the focus** or point of your compare/contrast essay.
- * **Write a focus statement** that tells the points you will make.
- * **Plan your paragraphs.**
- * **Introduce each paragraph** in the body of the essay with a topic sentence that sets the reader up for the information in that paragraph.

Paragraph 1: Introduction. Use the focus statement to write an introduction and end the introduction with the focus statement that tells the points you will make.

Paragraph 2: Compare text and research. Show how accuracy of history in the text matches research.

Paragraph 3: Contrast text and research. Show how history in the text differs from the researched facts.

Paragraph 4: Comments. Comment on any unique features or ideas the author included in the text.

Paragraph 5: Conclusion. Summarize the comparison and then reflect and comment on it.