Comparison and Contrast
What is the Purpose?

- To show the similarities between at least two things
- and/or
- To show the difference between two things
- To inform
- To explain
- To analyze
- To evaluate
## Pre-writing

| Chart |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Price</th>
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<th>Insurance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honda Civic</td>
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Venn Diagram

Alike
Writing a Thesis Statement

- Review your data
- Decide to what extent you will stress the similarities between your subjects and to what extent you will stress their differences
- Create a thesis statement that reflects that decision
Weak Thesis Statements

- They are both somewhat alike and somewhat different.
- I can see some similarities and some differences too.
- Both of them involve (only a single similarity, no differences).
While both the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists agreed that government was needed to establish order, the Federalists promoted a centralized federal authority and the Anti-federalists supported a loose confederation which favored states’ rights.
Better Thesis Pattern

Ralph and Jack have very different leadership styles and motivations which leads to the eventual chaos and anarchy on the island.
In order to make a decision between the Honda Civic and the BMW, I used the following criteria: price of the vehicle, average mileage, and price of insurance.
## Paragraph Organization--Block

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<tr>
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Outline - Block Method

I. Introduction
   a) Attention Getter or Hook
   b) Background Information
   c) Thesis

II. BMW
    a) Price
    b) Mileage
    c) Insurance

III. Honda Civic
    a) Price
    b) Mileage
    c) Insurance

IV. Conclusion
    a) Emphasize Major Ties
    b) So What?
    c) Evaluation
Outline - Point by Point

I. Introduction
   a) Attention Getter or Hook
   b) Background Information
   c) Thesis

II. Price
   a) BMW
   b) Honda

III. Mileage
   a) BMW
   b) Honda

IV. Insurance
   a) BMW
   b) Honda

IV. Conclusion
   a) Emphasize Major Ties
   b) So What?
   c) Evaluation
Transitions

To Compare
- also
- as
- in the same way
- like
- likewise
- similarly
- comparable
- equally
- in addition

To Contrast
- although
- but
- even though
- however
- on the other hand
- otherwise
- yet
- still
- conversely
- as opposed to
- different from
- whereas
Review

- Make sure you understand the purpose of the assignment
- Complete pre-writing activity
- Gather evidence
- Create a thesis statement
- Choose an organizational pattern
- Write an outline
- Write a working draft
- Revise as needed
Additional Resources

See *East versus West* for a sample essay and teacher comments.

http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/k/x/kxk30/des-student/defess.htm