

Comparison and Contrast



What is the Purpose?

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

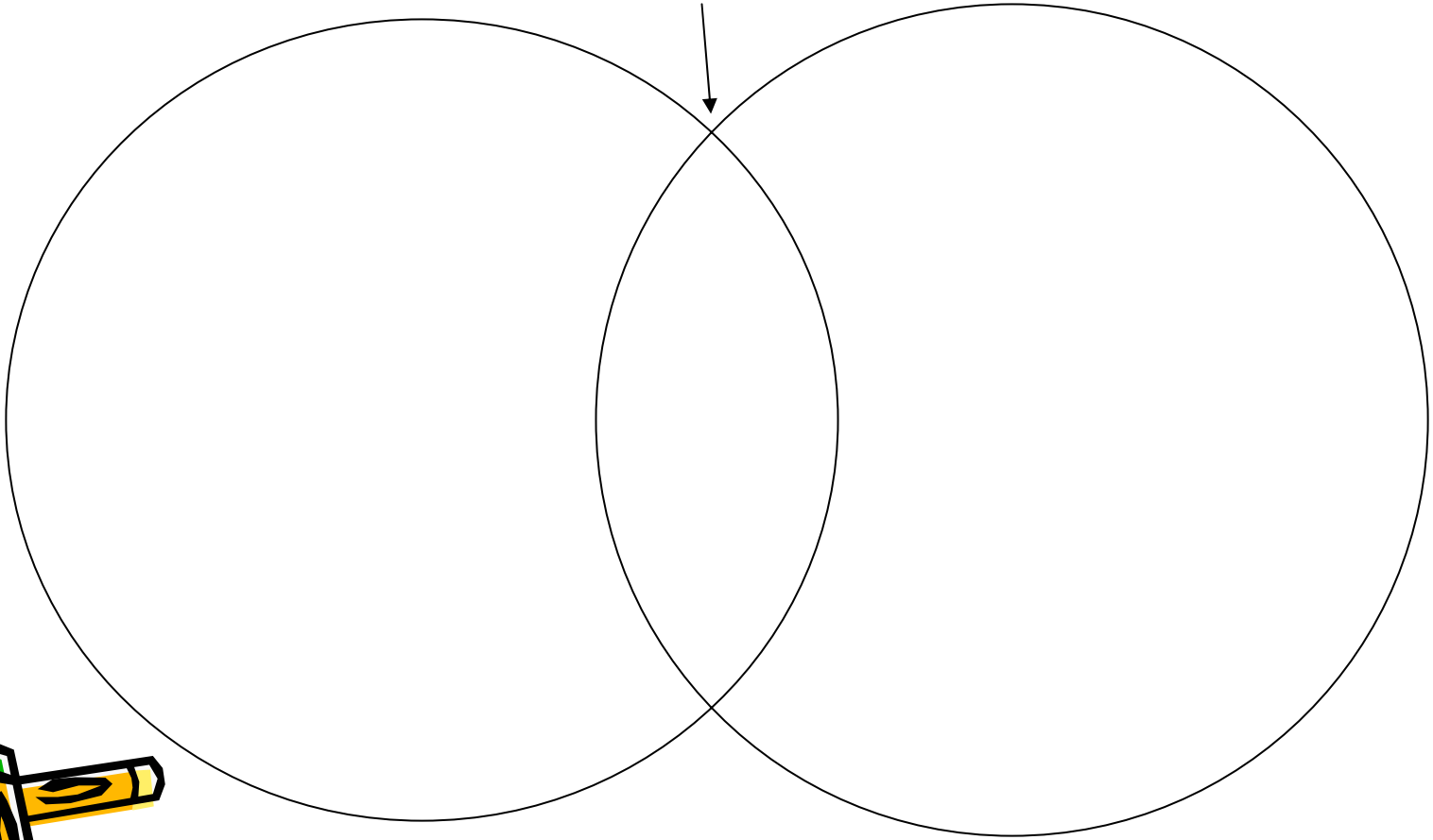
Pre-writing

■ Chart

	Price	Mileage	Insurance
BMW			
Honda Civic			

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).

Better Thesis Pattern

- 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.

Sample Thesis Statement for Honda/BMW Comparison/Contrast

- 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

	Price	Mileage	Insurance
2 nd Paragraph BMW →→→→			
3 rd Paragraph Honda Civic →→→→			

Paragraph Organization--BLOCK

	Price	Mileage	Insurance
BMW	2 nd Paragraph	3 rd Paragraph	4 th Paragraph
Honda Civic	5 th Paragraph	6 th Paragraph	7 th Paragraph

Paragraph Organization--Point by Point

	2 nd Paragraph	3 rd Paragraph	4 th Paragraph
	Price	Mileage	Insurance
BMW	↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓
Honda Civic	↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓

Paragraph Organization—Point by Point

	Price↓	Mileage	Insurance
BMW	2 nd Paragraph	4 th Paragraph	6 th Paragraph
Honda Civic	3 rd Paragraph	5 th Paragraph	7 th Paragraph

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>