

COMPARE AND CONTRAST PAPERS

CARTHAGE COLLEGE WRITING CENTER

The purpose of a compare and contrast paper is to point out similarities and differences between two subjects in order to **make a meaningful argument about the subjects**



HOW TO GET STARTED

- 1.) **Make a list of characteristics for each subject you are looking at**
- 2.) **Identify both similarities and differences between the subjects**

What characteristics stand out to you?
Are there more similarities or differences?
Are there any surprising similarities or differences?
What could you argue about the subjects?

- 3.) **Pick out a few key characteristics to expand on in your paper**
- 4.) **Begin to find evidence and organize**



ORGANIZING YOUR ARGUMENT

OPTION 1

Character 1:

- A.)
- B.)
- C.)

Character 2:

- A.)
- B.)
- C.)

OPTION 2

Character 1 - A

Character 2 - A

Character 1 - B

Character 2 - B

Character 1 - C

Character 2 - C

You can use the option that makes more sense to you.

Either way, remember to relate each point back to your thesis. The characteristics themselves are important, but also tell the reader what the similarities and differences mean.