

Single-Paragraph Summary Template: Compare & Contrast Expository Writing

Identifying the topic	_____ _____ and _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> have many similarities and differences. <input type="checkbox"/> have some common attributes, but also important distinctions. <input type="checkbox"/> both share certain characteristics, however, they differ in meaningful ways. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ .
Including details – difference #1	<input type="checkbox"/> While... <input type="checkbox"/> Although... <input type="checkbox"/> Whereas... <input type="checkbox"/> _____ ...	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ have/are _____, _____ have/are _____. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ have/are _____, _____ do not. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ .
Explaining key details	<input type="checkbox"/> This explains why... <input type="checkbox"/> This is important because... <input type="checkbox"/> Consequently, ... <input type="checkbox"/> _____ ...	_____ _____ _____ _____ .
Including details – difference #2	<input type="checkbox"/> Another important <i>difference/contrast</i> ... <input type="checkbox"/> A significant distinction between the two... <input type="checkbox"/> _____ ...	<input type="checkbox"/> is that _____ have/are _____, while _____ have/are _____. <input type="checkbox"/> is that _____ have/are _____, as opposed to _____ which have/are _____. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ .
Explaining key details	<input type="radio"/> This is a key detail ... <input type="radio"/> This distinction is a powerful example ... <input type="radio"/> This is essential information ... <input type="radio"/> _____ ...	<input type="checkbox"/> that illustrates ... <input type="checkbox"/> that explains ... <input type="checkbox"/> that proves <input type="checkbox"/> because ... <input type="checkbox"/> _____ ...

Alex Thiemann 11/7/14 8:26 AM

Comment [1]: Please follow this structure closely. If writing is difficult for you, please use any/all of the suggestions provided in the various columns and rows exactly as they are laid out. If you are a stronger writer, still follow the steps, yet experiment with word choice and let the sentence frames act as a guide.

Alex Thiemann 11/7/14 8:20 AM

Comment [2]: If you want, you can try to add a couple of sentences after the topic sentence that touch on some of the general information of the two countries that you are comparing. This will help the audience gain context and perspective about the general attributes of your country's.

Including details – similarity #1	<input type="checkbox"/> However, _____ and _____ also have similarities including.... <input type="checkbox"/> On the other hand, _____ and _____ also share common attributes such as ... <input type="checkbox"/> _____ ...	<input type="checkbox"/> the fact that both have/are _____. <input type="checkbox"/> their most notable commonality which is _____. <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Explaining key details	<input type="radio"/> This parallel feature... <input type="radio"/> That shared characteristic... <input type="radio"/> This mutual trait... <input type="radio"/> _____...	<input type="checkbox"/> is essential because _____. <input type="checkbox"/> is necessary in each to ensure _____. <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> By comparing _____ and _____ ... <input type="checkbox"/> _____ _____ _____	<input type="radio"/> it became clear that... <input type="radio"/> I realized that ... <input type="radio"/> it became obvious that... <input type="radio"/> I discovered that ... <input type="radio"/> _____...

Alex Thiemann 11/7/14 8:22 AM
Comment [3]: Like with the differences, if you have more similarities, all you have to do is repeat this process again. 1) Identify the similarity and 2) Explain the key details

Compare and Contrast Signal Words

Tier I	Tier II	Tier III
<i>Like, is the same as but</i>	<i>are similar because just like</i>	<i>as opposed to just as</i>
<i>Are the same/ however</i>	<i>have in common in contrast</i>	<i>a distinction between whereas</i>
<i>different because yet</i>	<i>difference between compared to</i>	<i>share common attributes</i>
<i>_____er, _____est unlike</i>	<i>on the other hand</i>	<i>by comparison each is</i>
<i>_____er than both</i>		<i>synonymous with</i>

Alex Thiemann 11/7/14 8:24 AM
Comment [4]: These three tiers are levels of academic vocabulary that you might use in your paragraph. Tier I is more simplistic and Tier III is the most complex. YET... do not simply try to use only Tier III words. Sometimes the structure and tone of the sentence will be off if you do not select the best word choice (not always the *most complex* word choice).