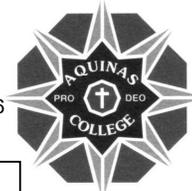


Analytical Exposition – Comparative Essay

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Purpose: To analyse and compare two (or more) topics and to persuade the reader that the writer's thesis/point of view is correct by developing an argument to support it.

Focus: Varies, e.g. two viewpoints or historical issues, pieces of artwork or music.

Structure:

- **Introduction to the topic** – comparative general statement giving necessary background to the topic including definitions.
- **Problem** – briefly outline both sides – which is better? Give your point of view.
- **Data/Evidence** – to support your arguments - may be dealt with in two ways:
 - Evidence
 - Comparison
 - Evidence
 - Summary of comparison
- OR
 - Argument/Supporting evidence
 - Argument/Supporting evidence
 - Comparison
- **Conclusion** – restates the original point of view. May give minor additional supporting evidence – perhaps a final comment or historical effect.

Organisation:

Decide on the **main elements** to be compared.

Determine the **characteristics** of each element, **examples** and **effects** of each.

Decide which are the most relevant points and the **order** in which you will present them.

Write a **plan**, including your introduction, elements, characteristics, evidence, points of comparison and conclusion.

Look for characteristics that resemble each other. Emphasise their similarities and difference. **Comparative essays demand an opinion of you!**

Language:

Describe **difference/contrast** using:

whereas; while	on the other hand
differs from/different	however; nevertheless
on the other hand	not as...as
not the same as	compared with
in contrast	yet; although; despite
unlike	is dissimilar to
more than; less than; the most	on the contrary

Describe **similarities/sameness** using:

similarly/are similar in that	just as...so
also	both...and
neither...nor	share
in the same way	are alike; like
resemble	have common characteristics
have in common	the same amount as

Words which tie **examples and results** to statements:

For example	for instance	including
As exemplified by	these include	accordingly
Such as	as a result	therefore
Consequently	through	an outcome of