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Chapter 12

Comparison and Contrast

In comparison and contrast, the writer places two subjects side by side and examines their similarities and/or differences in order to clarify the qualities of each (inform) or to make a point (persuade). Comparison and contrast can be used independently (just similarities or differences) or in combination (both similarities and differences). Comparison and contrast are frequently called for in essay exams because they allow you to show your knowledge of two subjects while analyzing the relationship between them.