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Flintstone and Kramden: Two Peas in a Pod

When I look back at my childhood, one of my fondest memories is racing home from school to settle down for an afternoon of watching television. My mother would fix me a snack, and I would flip through the channels until I located my favorite programs. I would start the afternoon with cartoons and end the evening with situation comedies. Two of my favorite programs were reruns of *The Flintstones* and *The Honeymooners*. *The Flintstones* was a cartoon set in the Stone Age while *The Honeymooners* was a situation comedy performed by live actors and set in the 1950s. Although *The Flintstones* was intended to appeal to kids and *The Honeymooners* was intended to appeal to adults, I enjoyed them both. Despite the two shows' obvious differences in form and setting, the main characters of the shows share a number of similarities. Fred Flintstone of *The Flintstones* and Ralph Kramden of *The Honeymooners* are similar in appearance, habits, and occupations.

The most striking similarity between Fred Flintstone and Ralph Kramden is their appearance. Both are large men with potbellies who wear colorful, baggy clothes. Both have dark hair, and because they both hate shaving, they have heavy five o'clock shadows. Not only do they look alike, but also they act alike as well. Fred and Ralph have boisterous personalities, and they both tend to act before they think. As a result, both men are forever getting in trouble because of their big mouths.

As well as having similar appearances, Fred and Ralph engage in similar social activities. Both men's favorite pastime is to go bowling on Friday nights with the guys. They both belong to bowling teams, and both take their bowling seriously. Their favorite bowling partners are their best friends, Barney Rubble and Ed Norton. Interestingly, Barney and Ed have similar personalities and both play second fiddle to their larger, more adventuresome friends.

Finally, when Fred Flintstone and Ralph Kramden put down their bowling balls, they earn their living by working similar jobs. Fred drives a truck in a gravel pit where he is responsible for moving boulders from one side of the pit to another. Similarly, Ralph drives a city bus; the only difference is that he moves people instead of boulders. Both men work 8:00 to 5:00 jobs that require little education and for which they are paid relatively low wages. As a result, they are both living middle-class lifestyles.

As a kid I enjoyed *The Flintstones* and *The Honeymooners*. It wasn't until I was an adult that I noticed the similarities in the shows' main characters. The similarities are so strong that it's almost as if they are the same story recast in different formats and settings. Both shows reflect a conventional 50s ideal of the American family and a certain type of conventional male role. Despite the differences in their settings, Fred and Ralph were cut from the same cloth.

Peer Example Comparison/ Contrast Essay

Dan

Para. 1

Para. 2

Para. 3

Organization of Comparison/Contrast

Paragraphs and essays that compare and/or contrast two subjects use either a **subject-by-subject** or a **point-by-point** structure. In a **subject-by-subject** structure, the writer describes one subject first and then moves on to the second subject. In such a structure, the writer would discuss everything