



## Thesis Statements for Comparison/Contrast

The topic sentence of a paragraph or the thesis of an essay **should name the subjects (A and B) and announce the focus on contrast and/or comparison.**

In a blueprinted thesis, the writer **spells out the main points the essay will cover.** In a general thesis, the writer states a general opinion but leaves the enumeration of points to the body of the essay.

Fred Flintstone of *The Flintstones* and Ralph Kramden of *The Honeymooners* are remarkably similar.

The topic sentence names the subjects of the comparison, Fred and Ralph, and announces the focus on similarities.

When we moved from Chapel Hill to Richmond, I discovered my new and old neighborhoods were not as different as I had expected.

This topic sentence names the subjects, Chapel Hill and Richmond, and announces comparison as the focus.

My neighborhoods in Chapel Hill and Richmond had similar kinds of kids and similar activities. (blueprinted thesis)

Notice how this topic sentence names the subjects, Chapel Hill and Richmond, and spells out the areas of similarity.

### Contrast Thesis Examples

Although football and soccer are both popular sports for kids, football is more expensive and more dangerous than soccer.

The topic sentence names the subjects, football and soccer, and spells out the areas of difference.

My junior and senior years in high school were as different as night and day.

This topic sentence names the subjects, my junior and senior years, and announces contrast as the focus.

My junior and senior years in high school differed in the amount of work expected of me and the amount of freedom I had. (blueprinted thesis)

Notice that this main idea statement names the two subjects to be compared, my junior and senior years, and spells out the differences that the writer will develop.

### Comparison/Contrast Thesis Examples

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 thesis names the subjects of the comparison, Fred and Ralph, and lists their similarities.