

Chapter 22 – Compare/Contrast Writing: Paragraph Assignment

- Select *one* of the 5 writing prompt pages at the end of Chap 22, and then **choose one of the topics** from the lists at the bottom of one of those pages and narrow it further into a focused topic you will use to anchor your topic sentence
- Be extremely careful not to give me a general, undifferentiated and unorganized discussion: You **must** choose a **two-part topic** for this assignment, and you must examine **at least 3 different points of comparison** when you compare them
- Do a brainstorm and a focused brainstorm to generate comparison points and illustration details for the points you decide to focus on in your comparative analysis (similar to the two brainstorm activities we did on the board when we compared paper books to e-book readers) – you will need a complete list of **specific points and detailed examples for each point** *before* you actually begin composing your paragraph
- Follow this process in your drafting work: Decide what your **2-part topic** will be; Then, decide *how* you will discuss them (using the **block method** OR the **point-by-point** method); Then, finalize **which 3 points of comparison** you will use to examine your two-part topic; Finally, decide **what kind of supporting details, stories or illustrations you will use** to make each point of comparison more specific and illustrative
- Proofread carefully for voice: You may not write about yourself for this assignment. Stay in the **3rd person** (he, she, it, they, them, one, etc.): **DO NOT use 1st or 2nd person speech** (I, me, you, your) anywhere in your essay
- Proofread carefully for verb consistency: Stay in **one verb tense** throughout the entire paragraph — Do not switch between multiple verb tenses in your discussion
- Proofread carefully for **pronoun reference**: All of your pronouns must have clear antecedents, and they must match in both number and person
- Write a minimum of **25 sentences, with lots of specific examples for each of the 3 points of comparison you will use to examine your topic**
- Use at least **3 transition words/phrases** from the lists of common compare/contrast transitions in Chap 22
- When you finish your final typed version, mark the following **before** you turn it in to me:
 1. **Underline** your topic sentence
 2. **Circle** each of the 3 required transition words that you used
 3. **Bracket** the sections of your paragraph and label them (i.e. “block A,” “block B” OR “point A,” “point B,” “point C”)

****NOTE:** The finished paragraph you turn in to me must be proofread repeatedly so that you can be sure to eliminate sentence construction problems and any errors in verbs, voice, or pronouns. **More than 3 sentence errors of any type will force a rewrite and an automatic grade reduction of 2 points.**