



MODUL *ESSAY WRITING*
(PBI225)

MODUL SESI
COMPARISON AND CONTRAST ESSAY:
EDITING AND WRITING THE FINAL DRAFT

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COMPARISON AND CONTRAST ESSAY: FINAL DRAFT

A. The Learning Outcomes

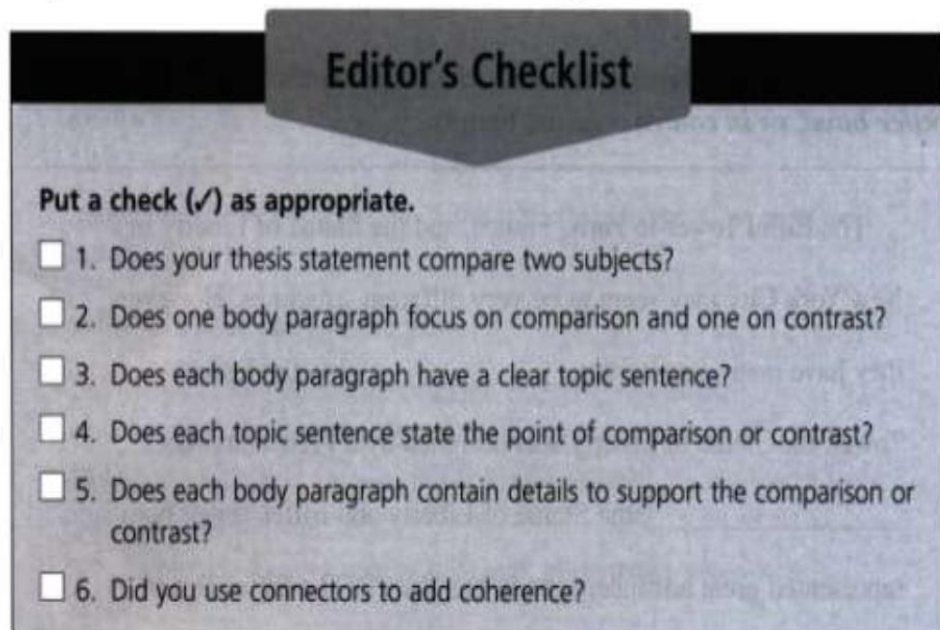
By the end of this session, students are expected to be able to

1. Edit and write a well-developed comparison/contrast essay

B. COMPARISON AND CONTRAST: FINAL DRAFT

Exercise 6 Peer editing a first draft

After you write your first draft, exchange it with a partner. Answer the questions on the checklist below. You may also write comments or questions on your partner's draft. Then read your partner's comments on your first draft, and revise it as necessary.



Editor's Checklist

Put a check (✓) as appropriate.

- 1. Does your thesis statement compare two subjects?
- 2. Does one body paragraph focus on comparison and one on contrast?
- 3. Does each body paragraph have a clear topic sentence?
- 4. Does each topic sentence state the point of comparison or contrast?
- 5. Does each body paragraph contain details to support the comparison or contrast?
- 6. Did you use connectors to add coherence?

EDITING YOUR WRITING

After you finish reviewing and revising your first draft, it is time for you to edit your work. Editing involves making changes to your writing to improve it and correct mistakes.

PART 4**Editing Your Writing**

Now that you have written your first draft, it is time to edit. Editing involves making changes to your writing to improve it and correct mistakes.

Language Focus**Using Comparatives in Comparison and Contrast Essays**

Comparison and contrast essays often use comparatives. Comparatives are used with adjectives, adverbs, and nouns to show differences between two subjects (people, objects, ideas, places, or actions).

Comparatives with Adjectives and Adverbs

- To form the comparative of one-syllable adjectives and adverbs, add *-er*. If the adjective or adverb ends in a single vowel and consonant, double the consonant.
- To form the comparative of most two-syllable adjectives and adverbs, add *more*; however, if the adjective ends in *-le*, use *-er*. If the adjective ends in a consonant plus *y*, change *y* to *i* and add *-er*.

Comparatives with Nouns

- To form the comparative of nouns, use *more*.

Comparative Forms of Adjectives, Adverbs, and Nouns

Adjectives		
ONE SYLLABLE	TWO SYLLABLES	THREE OR MORE SYLLABLES
tall - taller	simple - simpler	beautiful - more beautiful
cold - colder	happy - happier	expensive - more expensive
cute - cuter	famous - more famous	creative - more creative
big - bigger	polite - politer / more polite	intelligent - more intelligent

Adverb Regular Forms	
ONE SYLLABLE	TWO SYLLABLES
hard - harder	quickly - more quickly
late - later	clearly - more clearly

Adverb Irregular Forms		
ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	COMPARATIVE
good	well	better
bad	badly	worse

Nouns			
COUNT NOUN	COMPARATIVE	NON-COUNT NOUN	COMPARATIVE
a book	more books	homework	more homework

Exercise 1 Forming comparatives

Write the comparative form of the following adjectives and adverbs, using *-er* or *more*.

1. difficult _____
2. challenging _____
3. smart _____
4. tired _____
5. sleepy _____
6. energetically _____

Language Focus

Using Comparatives in Sentences

When we use a comparative in a sentence, we sometimes delete the second subject and verb. We also sometimes use the comparative without *than* when the context is clear. Look at the examples and charts below:

People in Xela are **less** stressed than New Yorkers are.

New Yorkers are always rushing around. People in Xela are **less** stressed.

Comparatives in Sentences

Comparatives with <i>than</i> and subjects			
	COMPARATIVE	THAN	SUBJECT (+ VERB OR AUXILIARY)
Lisa is	taller	than	her brother (is).
Tony works	harder		you (work). you (do).
We read	more books		they (do).

Comparatives with <i>than</i> and object pronouns			
	COMPARATIVE	THAN	OBJECT PRONOUN
Lisa is	taller	than	him.
Tony works	harder		you.
We read	more books		them.

Exercise 2 **Identifying comparatives**

Underline the comparative in the sentences below.

1. Time passes more slowly in Xela than it does in New York.
2. The colonial buildings of Moreda Street are more beautiful than those in Willowbrook Mall.
3. The buildings in New York are taller than the buildings in Xela.
4. The parents on Moreda Street are more vigilant than the parents at Willowbrook Mall.
5. The clothing is more colorful in Xela than in New York.
6. The ice creams are bigger at Willowbrook Mall than in the cafés on Moreda Street.

Exercise 3 **Choosing the correct form of comparatives**

Circle the correct form of the comparative in each sentence.

1. She was (exciteder / more excited) than he was about the party.
2. Franz spoke (enthusiasticallier / more enthusiastically) than Sabina about New York.
3. New York is much (cleaner / more clean) than it was a few years ago.
4. In Quetzaltenango the buildings are (older / more old).
5. My brothers are (taller / more tall) than I am, but my sisters are (shorter / more short).
6. Some people think that a beach vacation is (relaxier / more relaxing) than an adventure vacation.

Exercise 4 **Writing comparatives in sentences**

Complete each sentence using a comparative. Use *-er*, *-ier*, *more*, or *less*.

1. A skyscraper is _____ than a sand dune.
2. Canada is _____ than Singapore.
3. A pizzeria is _____ than a four-star restaurant.
4. A baseball is _____ than a tennis ball.
5. A hospital is _____ than a medical clinic.
6. A library is _____ than a dance club.

Exercise 5 **Editing a paragraph**

Read the paragraph. Correct the mistakes with comparatives. There are eight mistakes.

My old home is very different from where I live now. My old home was a house, but my new home is an apartment. My new apartment is more small than my old house, but the rooms are more large. Everyone in my family feels differently about this. My parents liked my old house because it was spaciously, but I like the apartment because my room is more big. My brothers don't like the new apartment so much because they have to share a room. My older brother is more independent my younger brother, and so he wants his own room. My new apartment is also more close to the bus stop, so it is convenient than my old house, but it is also noisier.

Exercise 6 **Editing your first draft and rewriting**

Review your essay for mistakes. Use the checklist below. Then write a final draft.

Editor's Checklist

Put a check (✓) as appropriate.

1. Did you use comparatives in your essay?
2. Did you add *-er* to adjectives and adverbs with one syllable?
3. Did you add *more* to adjectives and adverbs with two or more syllables, and to nouns?
4. Did you use a different comparative pattern for irregular adverbs?

AN EXAMPLE OF DEVELOPING A COMPARISON AND CONTRAST ESSAY

Sari, a first-year Biochemistry student, is interested in nutrition and wellness. As her friends know all too well, she has very clear opinions about North American food, and fast food in particular.

To generate ideas for her paper, Sari started with a mix of questioning and listing. She wanted to see where her focus would be.

She planned and did prewriting as follow:

Trial Thesis: Fast food is never a good choice because...

- it's not nutritious
- it's overpriced and tasteless compared to cooking for yourself
- it never ends up being a balanced meal or snack
- it doesn't really taste that good after the first few bites
- it's full of chemicals and preservatives
- it's expensive for what it is

Why isn't it nutritious?

- the fat-to-protein ratio is way out of whack
- burgers, fries, pizzas, even Asian meals in food courts just sit a lot of the time—the nutrients die under the heat lamps
- most of it is over-processed—nobody cooks it in most chains—it comes in bags on trucks and it's reheated

How overpriced is it?

- a quarter-chicken dinner is around \$9
- but a chicken breast with the bone in would only cost about \$2
- add potatoes or some starch and either of those would only cost about 50 cents or less per person—how much does a bun cost?

At this point, Sari saw what she was doing. She was coming up with ideas, but not contrasts. She knew this was to be a comparison or contrast essay, but it was only once she started thinking about the idea of fast food being overpriced that she started contrasting prices.

So she decided to put labels on the types of food she was going to contrast: fast food and home cooking. She then began to prewrite in a different way; she made two columns, using keywords based on possible supporting points she had listed under her trial thesis:

Fast Food	Home Cooking
1. Price	1. Price
2. Nutrition	2. Nutrition
3. Taste	3. Taste
4. Amount of processing	4. Amount of processing
5. Time and difficulty of preparation	5. Time and difficulty of preparation

First Draft and Revision


- 1 Everyone is tempted by fast food. We see it everywhere—it's on billboards, it's on TV, radio, and the Internet, and it's in every cafeteria on campus. People react automatically when they see the logos or hear the theme songs for fast-food chains; they are conditioned to be hungry and buy the products. Why? Well, fast food is ready as soon as someone walks up to a counter; there's no waiting—it's fast. And it must be good because everyone is eating it, right? Wrong. Fast food can not compete with home cooking on any count: taste, waiting or prep time, nutrition, and cost.
- 2 Sometimes people just want something to eat, fast. A burger, chicken, or pizza seems to be a good idea until it cools down a bit. The burger has no texture and it leaves a fatty taste in the mouth; the chicken batter is no longer crispy or fresh. If someone cooks either of these at home, then they can eat them straight from the stove, and the fresh taste does not change. Another example??? Fast food disappoints eaters quickly; it's the first bite that hooks them.
- 3 Anyone can come up with alternatives to fast-food options. You don't need to be a cook; burgers, chicken, pizza, and pasta are easy to make. In half an hour, even an inexperienced cook can fry or bake chicken or a burger. If someone wants Italian food, they can buy a pizza crust at the supermarket and dress it with different cheeses, seasonings, and toppings. There's no better or easier comfort food than a bowl of pasta; just boil water, and add sauce and cheese. With salad or raw veg and dip, it's a balanced meal.
- 4 Home cooking beats fast food where nutrition is concerned, too. Fast-food options are often full of empty calories and fat. A fast-food burger, like a Big Mac contains ??? calories (put in the number and the site) and about half of that is fat, which is too high a proportion for healthy eating. If someone adds fries, that's going to be about (?) calories, and a lot of those are coming from fat. Cook a quarter-pound burger at home and it adds up to about 200 calories, add oven-roasted potatoes and steamed vegetables, and it will be about the same as just the Big Mac alone, and with a much lower proportion of fat. Chicken is not always low calorie either. A KFC deep-fried, battered chicken breast contains about (???) calories and half of those are fat. These fast-food meals are not balanced, either, because there aren't any vegetables other than potatoes.
- 5 Home cooking is less expensive than takeout. Ingredients for an ordinary dinner add up to about five dollars at the supermarket. A quarter chicken takeout dinner for one costs at least eight or nine dollars. A supermarket chicken breast is around two dollars, a potato thirty cents, and vegetables a dollar or two. A quarter pound of ground beef is less than a dollar; add the potato and vegetables, and the home-made burger meal costs around \$3.00 (?), compared to most burger meals, which will be at least ????. Even a pizza made at home is better value. The crust, jar of sauce, mozzarella, and even pepperoni is about six or seven dollars, but in most places, a medium or large pizza will be over ten dollars, and there will be a delivery charge.
- 6 It's always tempting to stop at a drive-through window or pick up the phone when hunger strikes. But the food never tastes as good, it's not nutritionally balanced, and it costs more than if you cooked it at home.

The revision notes are:

- The first paragraph's too general—use specific brand names and examples—they work better as hooks
- I don't think I'm consistently contrasting details in the paragraphs—I'm not sticking consistently with "one side at a time" or "point by point" inside my paragraphs—par. 3 doesn't have a contrast and par. 4 needs more details after the KFC thing
- Why am I talking about conditioning in the opening?
- My second paragraph needs more examples and the third doesn't have enough details for my first point
- I've got a "we" in the first sentence and a "you" later—this is supposed to be 3rd person
- I need some transitions at the start of paragraphs and to put in my notes and facts from my research

Then, the final draft is as follow:

What's For Dinner?

- 1 Swiss Chalet, Tim Hortons, and McDonald's tempt hungry Canadians every day with billboards and TV commercials. Hot succulent chicken, fries and a roll; wholesome sandwiches with a doughnut on the side; or the Darth Vader of food, the Big Mac: they are all ready, right now, nearby. How can home cooking compete? Well, on the basis of taste, ease of preparation, nutritional value, and cost, the homemade meal wins every time.
 - 2 Sometimes people are just hungry and in a hurry to eat. A burger, fried chicken, or pizza seem like tasty ideas—at first bite. Let those cool down for a few minutes, though, and the sliver-thin burger leaves a fatty scum in the mouth and the chicken batter tastes like fried socks. Take-out tacos that smell so appetizing to a famished person's nose are not just impossible to eat but also nearly inedible when people try to eat them: tacos turn into a mess of cardboard splinters and mystery meat with shreds of rusty lettuce. Not appetizing enough? Try a sub—the mystery meat here is the warm, slightly pickled variety and the tomatoes are suspiciously tough, kind of a vegetable chew toy...but not as much fun. McDonalds would like folks to think "they're lovin' it" (*McDonalds*), but fast food usually disappoints by the third mouthful.
 - 3 There are better-tasting alternatives to any of those cheap and nasty options, meals that are quick and easy to prepare. In half an hour, even inexperienced cooks can sauté a chicken breast, chop, or burger; bake a potato; and make a salad. The meat will be juicy inside and crispy outside, the baked potato will be hot and ready for toppings, and the salad will taste cool and fresh. Each can be seasoned and cooked exactly to taste, not according to a corporate formula. If the palate craves Italian flavour, takeout pizza is not the only option; the crust is usually chewier than the box it came in. Anyone can buy a good crust at the supermarket and dress it up or down to taste with different cheeses, seasonings, and toppings in exactly the desired quantities. A comforting bowl of pasta is as easy as boiling water, then opening a jar of gourmet sauce or just applying oil, garlic, and parmesan cheese. Add raw vegetables and dip, and dinner is complete. Cooking a simple meal is easy and always tastes better than predictable takeout options.
 - 4 Another area where the home-cooked meal shines is nutrition. Fast-food options are often full of empty calories and fat. A fast-food burger, if it is a Big Mac, contains approximately 576 calories, of which 270 come from fat; the fat makes up 46 percent of the burger (*Weightloss for All*). Add fries, and it adds another 610 calories, with 261 of those coming from fat. A quarter-pound burger pan-broiled at home amounts to about 200 calories, and with sides of oven-roasted potatoes and steamed vegetables, will add up to the calorie count of just the Big Mac alone, and a much lower proportion of fat. A KFC deep-fried, battered chicken breast contains about 450 calories (*Weightloss for All*), and more than half of those are fat. A Swiss Chalet chicken breast is a little better at 300 calories (Swiss Chalet), but a chicken breast, with skin, floured, seasoned, and fried at home will add up to only 200 calories, with one-third of those coming from fat. Takeout burger or chicken meals are rarely balanced, either; generally takeout means no vegetables other than potatoes.
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- 5 Finally, home cooking is always less expensive than takeout. Most ingredients for an ordinary dinner add up to about five dollars at the supermarket. In contrast, a quarter chicken takeout dinner for one costs about nine dollars. A chicken breast bought at the supermarket is, at most, two dollars, a potato thirty cents, and vegetables a dollar or two—the whole meal cooked at home costs about half of the takeout bill. Burgers and fries are cheaper forms of fast food, in general. But a quarter pound of ground beef is perhaps eighty cents; add the potato and vegetables, and the home-made burger meal tops out at about \$2.50, compared to most burger-and-fries (no veggies) combos, which will be at least \$5.00 or more. Even a fully loaded pizza made at home is better value than the delivery model. The supermarket crust, jar of sauce, mozzarella, and even pepperoni may total \$7.00, but in most places, a medium or large pizza will be over \$10.00, and there will be a delivery charge. Where economy is concerned, do-it-yourself meals are clear winners.
 - 6 Stopping at a drive-through window or picking up the phone is tempting when hunger strikes. But the food never tastes as good as it looks in the menu pictures, and it is almost never nutritionally balanced. And if the savings that result from cooking at home are not enough, consider the ritual of making a meal exactly to taste as a soothing end to a busy day.

C. REFERENCES

- Langan, J. & Winstanley, S. (2014). *Essay Writing Skills with Readings. Seventh Canadian Edition*. Canada: McGrawhill-Ryerson
- Savage, A & Mayer, P. 2005. *Effective Academic Writing 2: the Short Essay*. Oxford: Oxford University Press