

Comparative essay

Explain meaningful similarities and differences

COMMON FORMS

Texts, places, systems, periods, viewpoints

TEXT SHAPE

Shared focus → paired points of comparison → synthesis

FEATURES AND LANGUAGE

Comparative forms; paired evidence; contrast and similarity links

PLAN AND TEACH IT

Compare the same feature in both cases within each paragraph. End each point with why the comparison matters.

tone and register

Analytical and balanced; avoid ranking unless the task asks for evaluation.

LINKED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Try: Compare in One Sentence · Explain Similarity and Difference · Build a Comparison Table

A MODEL TO NOTICE

Bring a short example. Ask who it is for, what it is trying to do and which feature helps it work. Compare it with a less effective draft.

QUICK CHECKLIST

- ☐ The opening makes the purpose clear: Explain meaningful similarities and differences.
- ☐ Each part has a clear place and moves the reader towards the purpose.
- ☐ The language features, tone and level of formality fit the reader and situation.

A QUICK CLASSROOM ROUTINE

- 1 NOTICE** Read a model for purpose, shape and audience.
- 2 REHEARSE** Practise a useful sentence or language feature aloud.
- 3 WRITE** Plan, draft and use the guide as a checklist.
- 4 REVIEW** Ask a partner whether the text does its job; revise one feature.
Keep the subject thinking ambitious. Make the language visible, practise it, then fade the support.