

Comparison and Contrast Essay: Block Method

English 12

There are two basic patterns writers use for comparison/contrast essays: the **block method** and the **point-by-point method**. In the block method, you describe all the similarities in the first body paragraph and then all the differences in the second body paragraph. The guideline below will help you remember what you need to do in each part of a comparison/contrast essay using the block method.

Introduction

1. Attract the reader's attention.
2. Provide background information about your topic.
3. Identify the two things being compared and contrasted.
4. State the purpose for making the comparison and/or contrast.
5. State the thesis.

Body Paragraphs

1. In the first paragraph, discuss the similarities.
2. In the next paragraph, discuss the differences.

Conclusion

1. Paraphrase the thesis.
2. Summarize the main similarities and differences.
3. Paraphrase the importance of the topic.

BLOCK METHOD STUDENT ESSAY

*** Analyze this simple essay and see if you can find its main components**

Fighting the Battle against Drugs

The use of drugs has increased in recent years, according to numerous articles in medical journals. They threaten communities all over the world because of how they affect the organs of the body and their functions. Crack and cocaine are two of these dangerous drugs. Thus, it is important for health care professionals to have knowledge about them in order to deal with any problems related to their use that patients may experience. While they may appear similar at first glance, in fact they have three major differences.

Crack and cocaine have three similar effects on the human body. Although crack is heat resistant and cocaine is destroyed by heat, both cause hypertension. Also, crack and cocaine bring about physiological and psychological damage, depending on pre-existing conditions and the extent of drug use. For example, hallucination, psychosis, paranoia and aggressive behavior may occur, and an overdose of either may cause cardiac collapse or convulsion. Finally, use of both drugs can lead to addiction.

Despite crack and cocaine's similarities, they have three major differences. First, although crack and cocaine are derived from the coca plant, they differ in form. Crack has the form of flakes whereas cocaine is found in the form of powder, which can be dissolved. Furthermore, both crack and cocaine contain cocaine, but in various percentages: crack contains as much as 90 percent pure cocaine whereas cocaine contains from 15 to 25 percent pure cocaine. Another major difference is how they enter the body. For example, crack is smoked in a pipe or cigarette. It enters the body by the lungs into the bloodstream. Cocaine, on the other hand, is inhaled as a powder or is injected if dissolved. It enters the body via the nasal mucosa into the bloodstream or, if injected, directly via the bloodstream.

In conclusion, it can be seen that, while being alike in three ways, these two drugs differ in three ways. They affect the body in similar ways. Both can lead to physiological problems such as convulsions and psychological problems such as hallucinations. Furthermore, their use may result in addiction. However, cocaine and crack differ in form, content of pure cocaine and method of entry into the body. Therefore, it is important that health care professionals know about these drugs.

NAME:

BLK:

Compare and Contrast Outline

English 12

Essay Title:

INTRODUCTION

Hook:

Background Details:

Thesis statement:

BODY PARAGRAPH ONE (compare – similarities)

Topic Sentence:

Aspect 1:

Details for A:

Details for B:

Aspect 2:

Details for A:

Details for B:

Aspect 3:

Details for A:

Details for B:

Transition Sentence:

BODY PARAGRAPH TWO (contrast – differences)

Topic Sentence:

Aspect 1:

Details for A:

Details for B:

Aspect 2:

Details for A:

Details for B:

Aspect 3:

Details for A:

Details for B:

Transition Sentence:

CONCLUSION

Summary of Main Points:

Evaluation:

Concluding Sentence: