

Advanced 1
Unit 6: Writing
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Contrast Paragraphs

A contrast paragraph is a section of text that highlights the differences between two subjects, ideas, or objects. It's used to emphasize how they differ from each other. Typically, a contrast paragraph will describe each subject separately and then focus on their specific differences. This type of writing is common in essays where the writer is asked to compare and contrast two elements, but in the case of a contrast paragraph, only the differences are discussed.

For example, a contrast paragraph might detail how the educational opportunities for a girl in Canada differ from those in her mother's country of origin, emphasizing the access to a wide range of subjects and greater personal freedoms in Canada compared to the limited educational and career opportunities for women in the older generation of her mother's homeland.

Here's an example of a contrast paragraph using the point-by-point method:

Point-by-Point Method:

In the bustling city of New York, the streets are always alive with the sound of traffic and people, whereas in the serene countryside of Wyoming, one is more likely to hear the rustling of leaves and the calls of wildlife. While New Yorkers often rely on public transportation such as subways and buses, Wyoming residents typically depend on personal vehicles to navigate the vast open spaces. The towering skyscrapers of New York offer a stark contrast to the sprawling landscapes of Wyoming, which boast wide-open skies and distant mountain ranges.

Now, let's rewrite the same paragraph using the block method:

Block Method:

New York City is characterized by its constant noise, with the sounds of honking taxis and chattering pedestrians filling the air. Public transportation is the lifeblood of the city, with subways and buses transporting millions daily. The skyline is dominated by impressive skyscrapers that stretch towards the heavens. In contrast, Wyoming is a haven of tranquility. The soundscape is dominated by nature, with the whispering of the wind and the occasional wildlife call. Personal vehicles are essential, as the distances between destinations are vast. Instead of skyscrapers, one finds the beauty of nature in the form of expansive skies and majestic mountain ranges.

Both methods serve to highlight the differences between two subjects, but they do so in structurally different ways. The point-by-point method interweaves details about each subject, while the block method discusses each subject in its own separate section.

Source:

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