

The Compare or Contrast Essay

The Compare (similarities) or Contrast (differences) Essay can be developed in two different ways.

Type 1

Intro

Item A (E.G. Vancouver)

Element 1 Job Opportunities

Element 2 Recreation

Element 3 Cultural and Professional Sports Events

Item B

Element 1 Job Opportunities

Element 2 Recreation

Element 3 Cultural and Professional sports Events

Conclusion

OR (my preference because it doesn't tax the memory as much--in Type 1, several paragraphs intervene before you get to the salient contrasts or comparisons.)

Type 2

Introduction

Element 1

Item A

Item B

Element 2

Item A

Item B

Element 3

Item A

Item B

Conclusion

Let's have a look at a type 2 contrast (Differences) paper:

English 150 (12)

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Professor Sexton
November 12, 1998

Which to Choose Plane or Ferry

Most people use B.C. Ferries to cross the Strait of Georgia when commuting between Victoria and Vancouver. This is not the only way to traverse this body of water. The second most popular method is to fly. Most people choose to use a ferryboat instead of an airplane because it is more economical. But even if the airfare was reduced to a more competitive level, I believe that a majority of the travelers would still prefer to use a ferryboat because ferry travel offers superior comfort, convenience and safety.

The moment you enter a De Havilland Dash 8, a commuter plane, you know it was not designed to provide maximum passenger comfort. The entrance to the cabin is too short for anyone taller than five feet to walk through upright. As you sit in your seat, you are reminded of the time you were sitting in the back seat of a sports car. You sit there and pray that the individual in front of you does not worsen the situation by reclining his chair. The comfort level in a ferry is dramatically better. When you walk through the full-height doors and sit in a chair, it reminds many people of the bench seats of an old American family sedan, comfortable with plenty of leg room. For some people, the sensation of a gently swaying ship, a quiet environment, a plush chair and a constant supply of fresh ocean air is so relaxing that they fall asleep. While in a Dash 8, no one can fall asleep because of the random shaking motion of the plane, head-throbbing engine noise, uncomfortable chair and recirculated stale air.

A ferry trip is a more convenient method of travel than an airplane ride between Victoria and Vancouver. The ferry's departure schedule more readily matches your agenda. Departures occur on a predictable daily schedule between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., odd hours during the off-season and every hour during the peak-season. With an airplane departure, it is impossible to figure out when the plane is leaving without the assistance of a travel agent. Flight times seem like they were chosen by a random number generator: Monday at 11:03, 13:13 and 18:24 and Tuesday at 10:34, 11:10 and 14:11. Another convenient feature of the ferry system is the absence of size and weight restriction on your packages. The airlines rightfully need size and weight restrictions, but these limits make the process of packing more difficult and time-consuming. The most convenient aspect of ferry travel is the option to walk or drive onto the ferry. This allows a passenger to be self-sufficient and independent of a bus, a taxi or a compassionate friend for transportation. For air travel, it is walk-on only.

Most people feel safer when they are on a ferryboat than an airplane. Too often in the media, we are informed that a plane crash has taken place. Most of the time, it was something very minor that brought the plane down: ice buildup on the wings, faulty wiring, pilot error or inspection oversight. The usual result is a large percentage of passenger fatality due to smoke inhalation or physical injury. The chance of human causality is far less on a ferry. Even under the most severe emergency situations such as an engine fire or a hole in the hull, the percentage of passenger casualties would be far less because there is the option to board lifeboats or even to swim. The other reason that a ferry is safer than an airplane is that a boat is far more resistant to harsh weather conditions. Turbulence has in the past drilled unbuckled passengers as the plane suddenly drops in altitude. Fog has caused planes to crash as they attempted to land. Lightning strikes have caused engine fires on planes. On the other hand, only high winds play havoc on a ferryboat.

In addition to cost considerations, ferry travel offers superior comfort, convenience and safety that cannot be matched by any airlines. The rich may be able to afford the luxury of traveling between Victoria and Vancouver by plane, but they do not know what they are missing with the cruise liners of B.C. Ferries.