

Outline for a Comparison/Contrast Paper

There are two main ways to organize a comparison/contrast paper. You can talk about all the differences (or similarities) first, then switch to the other. An outline for this type of paper would look like this:

- I. Introduction
- II. Differences
- III. Similarities
- IV. Conclusion



The second way to organize this type of paper is to spend a paragraph on each topic and cover all the differences and similarities in each paragraph. For example, if I were writing a comparison paper on vegetable and flower gardens, and wanted to organize it this way, this is how my outline might look:

- I. Introduction
- II. Costs and benefits
 - A. Similarities
 - B. Differences
- III. Preparation and planting
 - A. Similarities
 - B. Differences
- IV. Care and harvest
 - A. Similarities
 - B. Differences
- V. Conclusion

The first way is better if you don't have all that much to say about your topics. The second is better if you have a lot of information to give.

Your turn! Create your outline for your paper:

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