Basic Compare/Contrast Research HOW-TO:

1. **Introduction**
   1. **Include a good title and an attention-getter for your research paper.**
   2. **For a good title, use your topic and something interesting**
      * **Audi A8 vs. BMW 650: Muscle and Style in the Big Import Sedans**
      * **Roasting or Frying: True Southern Chicken**
      * **Bow vs. Rifle: Who has more fun, the archer or the marksman?**
      * **Carrie Underwood or Miranda Lambert: Who is the new queen of country music?**
   3. **Give the reader basic background information on each product or person that you are researching -- to help them understand the bulk of your research.**
   4. **Include a concise thesis to focus and organize your paper. What is it that attracts you to your chosen topic? What do you expect your research to prove?**
2. **Body Paragraph(s) – Point of Comparison #1**
   1. **For each body paragraph, create a list of fact cards that you plan on using to support that paragraph (or thesis point).**
   2. **Like this: A1, B6, C4 (Letter is what you have labeled your source, Number is the fact # that was written down)**
   3. **When you first use a source, make sure you add bibliography information to your works cited card or copy the URL into your works-cited document on the computer. This way, you won’t forget where you found things.**
   4. **DOUBLE CHECK to make sure whether or not your fact cards are direct quotations or paraphrases. This will save you the headache later on.**
3. **Body Paragraphs(s) – Point of Comparison #2**
   1. **Between body paragraphs and between sentences, use transitions to make your paper flow.**
   2. **Examples:** 
      * **Addition: also, again, as well as, besides, coupled with, furthermore, in addition, likewise, moreover, similarly**
      * **Sequence: at first, first of all, to begin with, in the first place, at the same time, for now, for the time being, the next step, in time, in turn, later on, meanwhile, next, then, soon, while, simultaneously, in conclusion, with this in mind**
      * **Similarity: comparatively, coupled with, correspondingly, identically, likewise, similar, moreover, together with**
      * **Contrast: contrary to, in contrast to, the opposite of, distinguished from, counterpoint to, opposed to, set off from**
4. **Body Paragraph(s) – Point of Comparison #3 (and #4, etc.)**
   1. **You may compare points about both topics/persons within a single paragraph, or alternate full paragraphs about each topic/person.**
   2. **Remember that some points may be important enough to require more than one paragraph.**
5. **Conclusion**
   1. **Stress the importance of the thesis statement, give the essay a sense of completeness, and leave a final impression on the reader. Did your research prove what you predicted it would prove, or did the data tell you something different?**
   2. **Answer the question “So What?” Tell the reader why the paper was useful and informative!**

**Title:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Compare/Contrast Research Paper Format**

# Introduction: (attention getter)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. Intro to subject #1

b. Intro to subject #2

c. Overview of points of comparison

d. The last two sentences of this paragraph includes your thesis and predictions, like this:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

(topic) (topic) (reasons they are interesting)

In comparing them, I expect to discover similarities and differences about (background, talents, skills, characteristics, features, etc….) and come to some conclusions: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

# Point of comparison #1:

* 1. (body paragraph) (topic sentence) About subject A: \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. List notecards used:

* 1. (body paragraph) (topic sentence) About subject B: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. List notecards used:

# Point of comparison #2:

a. (body paragraph) (topic sentence) About subject A:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.List notecards used:

b. (body paragraph) (topic sentence) About subject B:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.List notecards used:

# Point of comparison #3:

a. (body paragraph) (topic sentence) About subject A:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.List notecards used:

b. (body paragraph) (topic sentence) About subject B:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.List notecards used:

# Point of comparison #4, #5, and so on…. as above.

# Conclusion

1. Answer the question, “Did your research prove what you predicted it would prove?”
2. Summarize your findings: What/who is best at this…what/who is best at that…Why is this important?
3. Describe your ultimate conclusions about the comparison.

**Suggestions for Conclusion**

**(1) Answer the question "So What?"** Show your readers why this paper was important. Show them that your paper was meaningful and useful. (**2**) **Synthesize, don't summarize.** Don't simply repeat things that were in your paper. They have read it. Show them how the points you made and the support and examples you used were not random, but fit together. **(3) Redirect your readers** Give your reader something to think about, perhaps a way to use your paper in the "real" world. If your introduction went from general to specific, make your conclusion go from specific to general. Think globally. **(4) Create a new meaning.** You don't have to give new information to create a new meaning. By demonstrating how your ideas work together, you can create a new picture of your product or person. Often the sum of the paper is worth more than its parts. What unique discoveries have you made about your product/person?