

Alaska Compare and Contrast Essay

Instructions: For this essay you will write a compare and contrast essay in which you analyze how two topics from Alaska are similar and how they are different from each other. For instance, you could compare two neighborhoods, two towns, two schools, or two Alaskan activities. When choosing two topics, consider the following:

☞ **What is your purpose?** Typically, an author writes a compare and contrast essay either to help the reader make a decision between two choices, or to help the reader understand the difference between commonly confused topics. Make sure you know which purpose you are going with! Why would someone need to know how your two topics are similar and different? **ALSO REMEMBER: YOU ARE NOT ARGUING FOR ONE OVER THE OTHER!**

☞ **Are they similar enough?** Your topics need to have enough similarities to discuss in your essay. If you try to compare and contrast completely unrelated topics (such as McDonalds and algebra), not only will you likely have no real purpose (no one needs help understanding the differences between them), but you also won't have enough similarities to fill a paragraph in your essay.

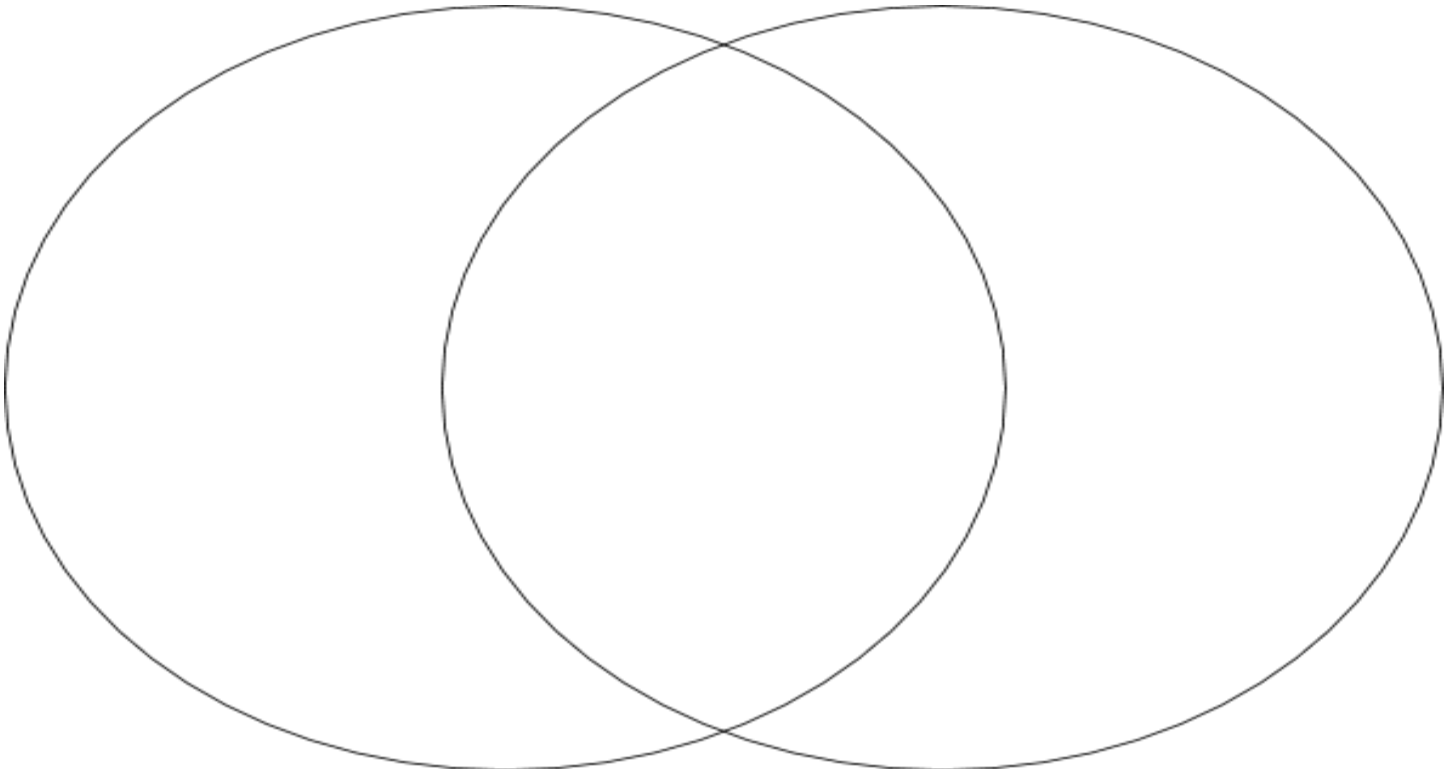
Prewrite:

Idea #1: _____ and _____, **Purpose:** Decide / Understand, **Similar enough?** Yes / No

Idea #2: _____ and _____, **Purpose:** Decide / Understand, **Similar enough?** Yes / No

Idea #3: _____ and _____, **Purpose:** Decide / Understand, **Similar enough?** Yes / No

Outline:



	Beginning (0-6)	Getting There (7)	Got It (8-10)
Selection of Topics (Prewrite) ____/10	The two topics may have nothing to do with Alaska , the purpose of comparing and contrasting them may be entirely unclear , or the essay may not compare and contrast them at all.	The two subjects may only be somewhat related to Alaska , or the purpose of comparing and contrasting them may not be entirely clear .	The two subjects are very specifically Alaskan in nature, and they are similar enough to merit comparing and contrasting. The purpose of comparing and contrasting them is clear and appropriate .
Writing Structure (Outline) ____/10	The essay may be missing important parts , such as the introduction, body paragraphs, or conclusion, or these parts may be significantly underdeveloped or unclear . Paragraphs may be missing entirely or not separated.	The essay has an introduction, two body paragraphs, and a conclusion. The introduction has a hook and thesis statement, but they may be weak or confusing . The topic sentences may be somewhat unclear or the body paragraphs may be slightly unfocused . The conclusion may have a weak summary or food for thought .	The essay has an introduction with an interesting hook and clear, one-sentence thesis statement . One body paragraph focuses on similarities and the other on differences, exploring them thoroughly , and summarizing them clearly in each topic sentence . The conclusion has a thorough summary and a strong food for thought .
Formal Register (Revise) ____/10	The essay may have a very casual or informal register , as casual words (like "gonna") and expressions and slang are present. Academic word choice is barely present, not present, or used inappropriately and doesn't make sense.	The essay maintains a mostly formal register through academic word choices and sentence variety, although in places the register may be slightly less formal . Casual words and expressions and slang are not present.	The language used throughout the essay maintains a very professional, formal register through academic word choice and sentence variety . Casual words and expressions and slang are not present at any point.
Editing ____/10	The essay has many sloppy, obvious spelling, capitalization, punctuation, or grammar mistakes . Hardly any effort, or no effort, can be seen in checking for and fixing mistakes.	The essay may have a few obvious spelling, capitalization, punctuation, or grammar mistakes , but not many. Some effort has clearly been made to check for and fix mistakes, though it could have been more careful or included a second set of eyes .	The essay has no or nearly no spelling, capitalization, punctuation, or grammar mistakes . Effort has clearly been made to not only carefully check for and fix mistakes, but to have another adult or peer do so as well .
Publishing ____/10	The essay may have many formatting errors , or not be typed, uploaded, or made viewable on your website .	The essay may have a few smaller formatting errors , but it is typed, uploaded, and made viewable to myself and two classmates on your website.	The essay is correctly formatted and typed in a standard 12 pt. font and uploaded and made viewable to myself and two classmates on your website.
Commenting ____/10	May comment on only one classmate's project, or none . Comment(s) may not be specific .	Comments on two classmate's projects, and identify strengths and/or suggestions for improvement . May be missing critical or positive feedback.	Both comments are heartfelt and honest . They each identify specific aspects of the essays that are successful and suggestions for improvement . Comments are constructive, even when critical.

Total: ____/60 (____% = ____)