

### BASIC TEMPLATE FOR THE COMPARE AND CONTRAST ESSAY

<b>Point of Comparison</b>	<b><i>Story 1</i></b>	<b><i>Story 2</i></b>
<b>Plot</b>	When writing an essay it is tempting to spend most of your time regurgitating the plot, finally getting to the comparison in the final paragraph. This is a very common trap. Avoid it. Spend very little time on the plot. Practise summarising both stories as part of your revision, in one or two sentences.	
<b>Character</b>	Take the characters from each story and explain how they are similar, how they are different. Explain how this impacts the story (plot) and theme (message). Spend less time describing a character's appearance and more time describing their personality and actions.	
<b>Point of View/Voice</b>	Point of View: First person or third person POV? Whose story is this? Is the story told by a minor character who acts as an impartial observer? Or is the main character the same as the first person? Voice: educated, formal, informal, sad, upbeat, hopeful...?	
<b>Setting</b>	Setting includes both TIME and PLACE. It is easy to focus on place and forget to mention time. Time: Contemporary (present-day), set in the past, in the future? Place: Specific to one region? Universal? Small-town, urban?	
<b>Structure</b>	Are there any point-of-view switches? Is time linear, or are there many flashbacks and flash forwards? Is the story divided into 'chapters', or easily dividable chunks?	
<b>Theme</b>	Why did the author write this story? Was there an epiphany for the character? For you, as reader? Were you reminded of a time in your own life, and encouraged to think of it in a different way?	