

# Comparison Chart

## The Details

### What do I use this tool for?

Use this tool whenever you are asked to compare two or more things in a writing assignment.

### Why should I use this tool?

1. It will help you organize your thoughts quickly and efficiently.
2. It will help you make sure that you are making relevant comparisons that “match”
3. It will help you write a clear and effective thesis statement.

### How should I use this tool?

1. Complete this chart in 10 minutes or less before you begin writing.
  - a. Use shorthand - No complete sentences
  - b. Include only 2-3 bullet points in each box
  - c. Watch your clock. Taking too long? Write less.
2. Use this chart as an outline for your essay.

## General Template

	Comparison Category 1	Comparison Category 2	Comparison Category 3
Subject #1	•	•	•
Subject #2	•	•	•
Similar or Different?	•	•	•
Thesis Statement			

## Non-Historical Examples

**Prompt:** Evaluate the extent to which Harry Potter and Lord Voldemort are similar.

	Personality	Morals	Relationships
<b>Harry Potter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heroic</li> <li>• Kind</li> <li>• Smart</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cares about others</li> <li>• "Good"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has close friends</li> <li>• Values friends</li> <li>• Wishes for family</li> </ul>
<b>Voldemort</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mean</li> <li>• Sadistic</li> <li>• Smart</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selfish</li> <li>• "Bad"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No close friends</li> <li>• Murdered father</li> </ul>
<b>Similar or Different?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both smart</li> <li>• Everything else is different</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very different - opposites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very different - opposites</li> </ul>
<b>Thesis Statement</b>	Harry Potter and Voldemort are not very similar because they have different personalities, opposite morals, and very different relationships with people in their lives.		

**Prompt:** Evaluate the extent to which movies and books are similar.

	Purpose	Characteristics	Production
<b>Movies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entertainment</li> <li>• Relaxation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comedy, action, horror</li> <li>• Special effects</li> <li>• Expensive (movie theaters etc)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires many people to make</li> <li>• Expensive - actors, sets, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Books</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entertainment</li> <li>• Relaxation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comedy , action, horror</li> <li>• Make pictures in own head</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just requires one author and team to write</li> <li>• No bells and whistles necessary</li> </ul>
<b>Similar or Different?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• different</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• different</li> </ul>
<b>Thesis Statement</b>	Although they are both used for entertainment and relaxation, movies and books are different because they have very different characteristics and movies are more expensive to produce than books.		

## Historical Example

**Prompt:** Explain the extent to which Korea and Japan were similar in the period from 500-1200.

	<b>Belief Systems</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Relationship with China</b>
<b>Korea</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Confucianism elements from China impact elite</li> <li>● Confucianism lowers status of women → High restrictions on elite women</li> <li>● Buddhism impacted many people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dynasties = power moves through family</li> <li>● Politically independent and unified</li> <li>● Civil service examination (adopted from China) existed but was never as prominent as in China</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Paid taxes to the Chinese (usually in the form of products)</li> <li>● Positive trade and cultural relationship as long as taxes were paid</li> <li>● Borrowed from Chinese culture, especially among the elite</li> <li>● Emulated Chinese wealth</li> </ul>
<b>Japan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Native beliefs and practices remain prominent - Shinto - focused on spirits associated with ancestry &amp; nature</li> <li>● Chinese Buddhism - different schools develop</li> <li>● Buddhism impacted art, architecture, education, medicine, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● small aristocratic chiefdoms until 600s-900s</li> <li>● Never created strong centralized government</li> <li>● Feudalism develops - strong families with local military authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Physically separated from China</li> <li>● Never successfully conquered by China → Influence was voluntary</li> <li>● Paid formal tribute until 900s</li> </ul>
<b>Similar or Different?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Somewhat similar - both have Buddhism</li> <li>● Primarily different - Confucianism vs. Shinto</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Very different - centralized vs non-centralized government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Somewhat similar - both paid tribute</li> <li>● Differences- China had more influence in Korea &amp; conquered Korea</li> </ul>
<b>Thesis Statement</b>	Japan and Korea were not very similar in the period from 500-1200 because they had very different belief systems and styles of government. Although China influenced both places, Korea and Japan were impacted by China in different ways.		