

Compare and Contrast: Ethnography Introduction

Guiding Questions:

- Evaluate: How am I (and the people who I spend time with) similar to the people who I researched? How am I different from the people who I researched?
- How do I define myself? How do others define me? How do I want to be perceived?
- How am I part of a “group,” and how does my “group” relate to society as a whole?
- What do I learn about myself and others from looking at cultural groups?

Directions:

Step 1: Look for patterns in your research notes, interviews, and all of the pieces that you wrote for the Ethnography.

Step 2: Compare the subculture that you observed with yourself/your group of friends. Make your basis of comparison narrow. For example: the Geo Metro and the Ford F-150 are both vehicles, but that’s way too general. Go beyond the obvious, don’t summarize.

Step 3: Brainstorm and Plan. Create a graphic organizer (2-column notes, square Venn diagram).

- List the meaningful characteristics that you’ll compare and contrast.
- Include information from both your primary research and your secondary research

Step 4: Use the sample outlines on the back of this paper to determine your organization

Step 5: Write your essay on googledocs in your shared folder

Step 6: Use MLA in-text citations (AKA parenthetical citations)

Step 6: In your conclusion, clarify what you’ve learned about yourself as you’ve observed other people similar to, or different from, you.

Step 7: Proof-read

Format:

- Heading
- Title: Compare and Contrast: (the group you researched & yourself)
- 200-400 words
- 1.5 spaced
- 1” margins
- Introduction, Conclusion, Clear transitions between paragraphs – showing which group you’re talking about and whether you’re comparing or contrasting.
- MLA in-text citations to indicate use of secondary and primary source information
 - minimum: one citation per paragraph of text
- Proofread for errors in conventions

Two ways to organize your essay¹

Subject-by-subject comparison

Discuss the different subjects separately, but discuss the same main points for each.

Example: a comparison and contrast of Presidents Clinton and Bush

- I. Introduction with thesis
- II. President Clinton
 - A. First term
 - 1. Campaign
 - 2. Domestic Policy
 - 3. Foreign Policy
 - B. Second Term
 - 1. Campaign
 - 2. Domestic Policy
 - 3. Foreign Policy
- III. President Bush
 - A. First term
 - 1. Campaign
 - 2. Domestic Policy
 - 3. Foreign Policy
 - B. Second Term
 - 1. Campaign
 - 2. Domestic Policy
 - 3. Foreign Policy
- IV. Conclusion

Point-by-point comparison

First make a point about one subject and then follow it with a comparable point about the other, alternating between them until each point has been made.

Example: a comparison and contrast of Presidents Clinton and Bush

- I. Introduction and thesis
- II. Campaigns (compare and contrast their campaigns)
 - A. Clinton
 - a. Details about Clinton's campaign
 - B. Bush
 - a. Details about Bush's campaign & how it was different from/similar to Clinton's
- III. Domestic policy
 - A. Clinton (see ideas in II.A.a)
 - B. Bush
- IV. Foreign policy
 - A. Clinton (see ideas in II.A.a.)
 - B. Bush
- V. Conclusion

¹ <http://www.cameron.edu/~johnh/essay1assign.html> 9 March 2014