

ARIZONA EDVENTURES

Compare and Contrast

A compare and contrast essay shows the differences and similarities between two people, places or things. For this activity, you will compare and contrast two Arizona cities: Phoenix and Flagstaff (or any two locations of your choice). Have you been to both of these places? If so, you can write from personal experience. If not, you can research them on the internet or even better, go on a field trip! You may organize your ideas in one of two classic ways: in a “block” style or in an alternating “point-by-point” style. Both essays have an introduction and a conclusion, but the body arrangement is slightly different. An outline of each type of organization follows:

Block Style (four paragraphs)

In the block style, you would write about Phoenix in one paragraph and Flagstaff in the next. If you mention a particular point in the Phoenix paragraph, you must mention the same point in the Flagstaff paragraph, and in the same order.

I.	Introduction in which you state your purpose, which is to discuss the differences and similarities between Phoenix and Flagstaff.
II.	Phoenix A. Location/Landscape/Climate B. Historical Background C. Recreational Activities
III.	Flagstaff A. Location/Landscape/Climate B. Historical Background C. Recreational Activities
IV.	Conclusion, in which you state which place you like best and why, based on the above.

Point-by-Point Style (five paragraphs)

In this arrangement, each paragraph focuses on a specific topic. Within that paragraph, you would discuss a particular point about Phoenix and then immediately discuss the same point about Flagstaff.

I.	Introduction in which you state your purpose, which is to discuss the similarities and differences between Phoenix and Flagstaff.
II.	First item to discuss is location, landscape, and climate. A. Phoenix B. Flagstaff
III.	Second item to discuss is the historical background. A. Phoenix B. Flagstaff
IV.	Third item to discuss are types of recreational activities found there. A. Phoenix B. Flagstaff
V.	Conclusion, in which you state which place you like best and why, based on the above.

Write your essay on a separate sheet of paper. For extra credit, write one of each style!

NOTE: To guide the reader through shifts of thought when comparing and contrasting two different things, be sure to include some transition words and phrases as needed. For example: *however, but, conversely, in contrast, on the other hand, also, as, in a like manner, in a similar way, in the same way, just as, like, likewise, similarly, while.*