

Purpose:

The practice of learning to effectively compare and contrast is a fundamental aspect of writing at the college level. You will frequently, throughout your college career, be asked to write papers that make use of comparison and contrast, often with two outside sources, examining the similarities and differences between two authors and their ideas.

Topic:

For this essay, you will compare and contrast viewpoints on the value of college. In order to help you understand the different opinions on this topic, we will be watching a film called Ivory Tower, which is about the current state of higher education in the United States. We will also read an article that offers a different argument from the film, in an effort to understand opposing ideas on the issue.

For this paper, we will also be introducing the concept of using outside research, where you will include information about a major college issue (statistics, expert opinions, etc.) In your essay, you will use the research to identify areas of similarity and difference in the arguments on this issue, and build a compare/contrast structure that shows those similarities and differences through the use of examples. For instance, you might focus on the perceived benefits and drawbacks of college in a few specific ways. Overall, you will want to come to a conclusion about whether college is worth the cost, in order to make your comparisons/contrasts mean something.

Goals:

In your draft you will do the following:

- Select specific arguments about college to compare and contrast, using research to support your points.

- Make a judgment about whether college is worth it.

- Factor in comments from your classmates from peer review.

- Use strong conventions of grammar and sentence structure throughout.

You will have an opportunity to revise this paper after you receive comments from me. The first draft is ungraded, but the final draft will be evaluated with a rubric.

Your essay will be a minimum of 700 words, and will focus on your ideas and thoughts. Outside research is required (4 sources).