**The Compare and Contrast Essay**

**Point by Point**

**Opening Paragraph**– Introduction that leads us into a thesis

Thesis: contains three parts 1.) the two (or more) things being considered

2.) a controlling idea

3.) what you will do to develop the idea (indicate if you will compare or contrast)

\*Plan of Development (Optional) Tells the readers the categories by which you will compare or contrast.

**Body Paragraph #1** – First point of comparison (Cost)

Subject A (Puppy)

Transition

Subject B (Mature Dog)

**Body Paragraph #2** – Second point of Comparison (Purpose/Aim)

Subject A (Puppy)

Transition

Subject B (Mature Dog)

**Body Paragraph #3** – Third Point of Comparison (Personality)

Subject A (Puppy)

Transition

Subject B (Mature Dog)

**Body Paragraph #4** – Fourth Point of Comparison (Training)

Subject A (Puppy)

Transition

Subject B (Mature Dog)

**Final Paragraph – Conclusion**

* + Restates the thesis in new words.
  + Moves from narrow to broad
  + Uses a technique to close

**BLOCK/HALVES**

Paragraph #1 – Introduction

Paragraph #2 - 1st topic of comparison on contrast (Puppies)

* Cost
* Purpose
* Personalities
* Training

Paragraph #3 – 2nd topic of contrast (Mature Dogs)

* Cost
* Purpose
* Personalities
* Training

Paragraph #4 - Conclusion

Sample thesis for my topic:

Although both puppies and mature dogs have many similar traits, it is their differences that help us distinguish which pet is best to own.

Some transitional phrases to try:

To Compare:  
  
                                                                                                 
  
similar to                                at the same rate   
  
similarly                                 as  
  
like, alike                               just as  
  
likewise                                  in a like manner  
  
correspondingly                   in the same way  
  
resemble                                in resemblance to  
  
to have....in common            by the same token  
  
 

To Contrast:  
  
                                                                                                  
  
differ from                             however  
  
nevertheless                           even so  
  
dissimilarly                           different from  
  
less than                                 more than  
  
unlike                                      in contrast (to)                 
  
in opposition (to)                  on the contrary  
  
on the other hand                at a different rate  
  
although                                  while  
  
still                                         yet  
  
otherwise                               by contrast