

SAMPLE WRITING PROCESS: COMPARE AND CONTRAST

How are a laptop and a desktop computer similar? How are they different?

In a compare and contrast essay, you have to write about both the similarities and the differences of two things. Again, it helps to brainstorm ideas about the two things separately.

Brainstorming:

Laptop

portable

light

fragile

expensive

keyboard

touchpad/Mouse

screen

internet

email

holidays

cafes

slower processor

Desktop

fixed

work/home

powerful processor

video games

keyboard

screen

internet

email

photoshop

graphic design

3D

cheaper

A basic compare and contrast essay usually consists of four paragraphs: an introduction, followed by one paragraph giving two or three **similarities** plus details/examples, one paragraph giving two or three **differences** plus details/examples, and a conclusion.

Outline:

Introduction

Thesis Statement: Although there are some similarities between a laptop and a desktop computer, they are also different from each other.

Body Paragraph 1 – Similarities

Similarity 1: Components

Details: Outside - Screen, Mouse, Keyboard, USB ports, DVD drive

Inside – Motherboard, Processor, Hard drive...

Similarity 2: Uses

Details: the Internet, email, watch movies, write essays

Body Paragraph 2 – Differences

Difference 1: Places of use

Details: Laptop – at home, at work, on holiday, in cafes

Desktop – at home, at work

Difference 2: Computer power

Details: Laptop – not enough space, slower processor, slower graphics card

Desktop – more powerful, faster processor and graphics card

Conclusion: In brief, while laptop and desktop computers seem very similar at first, they are also very different in terms of size and power.

The essay

In today's world, computers have come to play an enormous role in many people's lives. People use them for work, in their free time, on holiday, and in many other situations. Two of the most common types of computer are laptop and desktop computers. Although there are some similarities between a laptop and a desktop computer, they are also different from each other.

At first glance, the two products are very similar. Firstly, they are made up of similar components, both externally and internally. Laptop and desktop computers both have screens, keyboards, USB ports and DVD drives. Internally, they are also constructed along similar lines, containing a motherboard, a processor and a hard drive amongst other things. Secondly, laptop and desktop computers are also used for many of the same purposes. Users can access the Internet, check their emails, watch movies and write essays on either of these appliances. Moreover, they will be able to do so equally comfortably.

Apart from similarities, a laptop and a desktop computer differ from each other in some ways. The most important difference is that while laptop computers are portable, desktop PCs are not. People can use laptops on planes, in cafes, even at the beach if they want to, but the use of desktops is usually restricted to the workplace or the home. While this could be seen as a drawback of desktop computers, their greater size also means that they are generally more powerful than laptop computers. Desktop computers tend to have faster processors and graphic cards, along with more RAM and hard disk space. This means that they can perform more tasks, such as running graphic design software, modern computer games and programs like Photoshop.

In brief, while laptop and desktop computers seem very similar at first, they are also very different in terms of size and power. Indeed, both types of PC are very useful and will continue to play a big role in people's lives for a long time to come.