

Rubric: Essay - Compare and Contrast

Category	4 Above Standard	3 Meets Standards	2 Approaching Standards	1 Below Standard	Score
Focus or Thesis Statement	The thesis statement names the topic of the essay, and outlines the main points to be discussed.	The thesis statement names the topic of the essay.	The thesis statement outlines some or all of the main points to be discussed, but does not name the topic.	The thesis statement does not name the topic, and does not preview what will be discussed.	
Evidence and Examples	All of the evidence and examples are specific and relevant. Explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Most of the evidence and examples are specific and relevant. Explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	At least one of the pieces of evidence or one of the examples is relevant, and has an explanation that shows how that piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Evidence and examples are not relevant and/or are not explained.	
Transitions	A variety of thoughtful transitions are used. They clearly show how ideas are connected.	Transitions show how ideas are connected, but there is little variety. They partially show how ideas are connected.	Some transitions work well, but some connections between ideas are fuzzy.	The transitions between ideas are unclear or nonexistent.	
Compare and Contrast	The essay thoughtfully compares and contrasts the required number of elements.	The essay compares and contrasts the required number of elements, but the explanations are a little fuzzy.	The essay compares and contrasts the required number of elements, but the explanations are very fuzzy.	The essay attempts to compare and contrast the required number of elements, but the effort fails.	
Grammar and Spelling	Author makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	

Total points: _____