

## Grading Rubric for Comparing/Contrasting Essay

Indicators	Expert	Practitioner	Apprentice	Novice
Main Idea	Starts essay with a strong hypothesis or thesis that does not repeat or summarize the similarities and differences used as support.	Starts essay with a relevant hypothesis or thesis that does not repeat or summarize the similarities and differences used as support.	Starts essay with a hypothesis or thesis that does not repeat or summarize the similarities and differences used as support.	Does not start essay with a hypothesis or thesis or starts by repeating or summarizing similarities and differences used as support.
Evidence	Cites at least three relevant similarities and differences each as evidence for the thesis in the main idea.	Cites some, but fewer than three, relevant similarities and differences each as evidence for the thesis in the main idea.	Cites some similarities and/or differences as evidence for the thesis in the main idea, some of which are not relevant.	Cites few similarities and/or differences in the main body of the essay.
Examples	Supports each similarity and difference with at least one example. Provides details in the examples. Well organized.	Supports some, but not all, similarities and differences with at least one example. Provides some detail in the examples. Organized.	Rarely uses examples to support similarities and differences.	Uses no examples to support similarities and differences.
Concluding Paragraph	Returns to thesis and, based on the body of the essay, brings a new perspective to the essay.	Returns to thesis, elaborates it, but does not bring a new perspective to the essay.	Returns to thesis but merely repeats main idea.	No concluding paragraph.
Conventions of Writing	Has few (if any) errors and follows appropriate conventions including spelling, paragraphing, and punctuation.	Has some errors and mainly follows conventions, including spelling, paragraphing, and punctuation.	Has some errors in spelling and punctuation.	Has many errors in spelling and punctuation.

Robert Swartz 2000