

جامعة الانبار

كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية

قسم اللغة الانكليزية

مادة الكتابة الاكاديمية

المرحلة الثالثة

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Academic Writing

Third stage

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2021-2022

Chapter Seven

The 10th Lecture

A Comparison/ Contrast Essay

in comparison/ contrast essay the student explains the similarities and differences between two or more items. The student could compare and contrast people, objects, ideas, countries, traditions, or anything that make sense. Comparison and contrast is a very common organizational pattern in academic fields. It is also a common type of essay prompt.

Noticing Vocabulary: Antonyms

antonyms are words with opposite meanings. The student should enrich his vocabulary by knowing antonyms as well as synonyms in the previous lectures. It is just like synonyms that links similar ideas, antonyms are useful when describing contrasting ideas.

Organization

the first key to write a successful comparison/ contrast essay is to organize it carefully. In order to organize his essay, the student needs to select which things he is going to compare, then he needs to know the points of comparison the student will use to explain the similarities or differences he identifies.

Point by Point Organization

in point by point organization, each point of comparison becomes a topic of a paragraph. As the students discusses individual points, he describes both similarities and differences. The student can put the paragraph in any order he wishes. Point by point is the best choice when the two things that are discussed by the student have both similarities and differences in all of the areas that were discussed.

Block Organization

The other way to organize comparison/ contrast essay is to arrange all the similarities together in one block and all the differences in another block. In block organization the student can discuss either the similarities first or the differences first. Of course the students can discuss only the similarities or only the differences.

The number of paragraphs in each block depends on the topic. For some topics, the student might write about all similarities in a single paragraph, for other topics, the student might need to discuss each similarity in a separate paragraph. The same is true for differences. Some topics may have one paragraph of similarities and several paragraphs for differences, or vice versa. Block organization is better than point by point organization if there are only similarities in one area or only differences in another area. In block organization the student must insert a transition or short transition paragraph between the two blocks. Its purpose is conclude one section and introduce another section.

Comparison/ contrast signal words

the second key in writing a second successful comparison/ contrast essay is the appropriate use of comparison /contrast signal words.

These are words that introduce points of comparison and points of contrast. It is not sufficient simply to describe each item that the student is comparing . The student must refer back and forth to , for example: culture A and culture B, and uses comparison and contrast signal words to show what is the same and what is different about. Of course the student should use transition signals such as *first, second, for example, finally*.

The students will be asked to memorize comparison and contrast signal words , their forms, their functions a, and their exact meanings listed in the charts in the book.