

Writing Essays → Writing a Comparative Essay Level: High School

*When you write a comparative essay, you must decide how to organize the information to convey it clearly. Writing in a **block** style groups all the information about one thing together. Each organizational block covers all the major points about one idea, object, or person. Another organizational style is by **point**, dealing with each major point as it relates to both subjects of the comparison. The block style usually works best for shorter essays. The point style works for longer essays.*

Read through the comparison chart below. Use the information in the chart to write two different outlines for a comparative essay, one in block style and another in point style.

Comparison Chart: Hurricanes versus Blizzards

Hurricanes	both	Blizzards
rain	storms	snow
thunder storms		visibility ¼ miles or less
winds > 74 mph	high winds	winds >35 mph
damage from high winds	frequent property damage	car accidents from low visibility
damage from flooding	power outages	slippery conditions → car accidents
occur in summer and fall		occur in winter
warm temperatures		wind chills to -60 degrees F

1. Block Style - Deal with each subject completely on its own, covering major points as they relate to that subject.

2. Point Style - Deal with each major point one by one, comparing the two subjects under each point.

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<p>Block Organization <i>Sample Outline</i> <u>Spring vs. Autumn</u></p> <p>I. Introduction</p> <p>II. Spring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. temperatureB. eventsC. time period <p>III. Autumn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. temperatureB. eventsC. time period <p>IV. Conclusion</p>	<p>Block Organization <i>Your Outline</i> <u>Hurricanes vs. Blizzards</u></p> <p>I. _____</p> <p>II. _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. _____B. _____C. _____ <p>III. _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. _____B. _____C. _____ <p>IV. _____</p>
<p>Point-by-Point Organization <i>Sample Outline</i> <u>Spring vs. Autumn</u></p> <p>I. Introduction</p> <p>II. Temperature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. springB. autumn <p>III. Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. springB. autumn <p>IV. Time Period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. springB. autumn <p>V. Conclusion</p>	<p>Point-by-Point Organization <i>Your Outline</i> <u>Hurricanes vs. Blizzards</u></p> <p>I. _____</p> <p>II. _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. _____B. _____ <p>III. _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. _____B. _____ <p>IV. _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. _____B. _____ <p>V. _____</p>

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