

## Writing Essays → Writing a Comparative Essay

Level: Middle School

A comparative essay notes the things that are similar and different between two ideas, people, events, or results. As you prepare to write a comparative essay, you brainstorm and research and then make a list that notes the similarities and differences between the things you are comparing. The information you gather will allow you to make an initial thesis statement.

**Comparison Chart: Hurricanes versus Blizzards**

Hurricanes	both	Blizzards
rain	storms	snow
thunder storms		visibility $\frac{1}{4}$ 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

Read the information in the comparison chart above. Ask yourself: *Is there something important, significant, or interesting in the similarities and differences on the list?* What have I discovered about the two subjects? Then use your answers to compose an initial thesis statement for a comparative essay on hurricanes and blizzards.

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