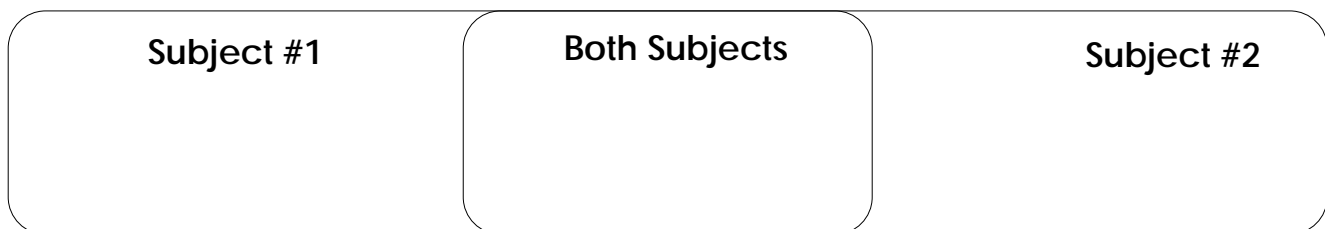




# The Venn Diagram

A Venn Diagram is a visual representation of what two things have in common and what is unique to each one. A Venn Diagram is a great tool to use before writing a compare-and-contrast paper to help you organize your thoughts about how the two subjects are related to each other. Below is an example of a Venn Diagram. What is the same about both subjects is written in the overlapping center area.



## DIRECTIONS:

1. **Choose a topic for a compare and contrast essay.** For example: chess vs. checkers, indoor vs. outdoor activities, etc.
2. **Generate ideas.** Write down as many things as possible that you can think of about each item in the pair you chose. Make two lists, one for each item.
3. **Sort your ideas.** Use a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast your ideas.
4. **Determine your approach.** Will you use an alternating or dividing pattern to present your ideas? In the *alternating* method, you compare and contrast two subjects point for point. In the *dividing* method, you make all of your points about the first subject; then you make all of your points about the second one.
5. **Draft your paragraph.** Draft your paragraph on a separate sheet of paper.