

Alternating and Dividing



When you compare things, you look for things that are the same. When you contrast things, you look for things that are different. When comparing and contrasting in the same piece of writing, transitional words signal to the reader whether something is being compared or contrasted. Compare-and-contrast writing can give readers a better understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of a topic.

There are two methods of writing a compare and contrast paper. 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 subject.

DIRECTIONS: Choose a topic that interests you. Make notes in preparation to contrast the two things. Then write two versions of a contrast paragraph. In the first, use the **alternating** method of contrasting. In the second, use the **dividing** method.

My Topic: _____

Notes

