

DEV 075 Sample Paragraph: Comparison/Contrast



High School and College



Even though high school and college are both institutions of learning, they differ in at least three ways. The first difference between high school and college is their social atmospheres. In high school the facility is usually smaller, and students are, for the most part, well acquainted with each other. In addition, students in high school have the same six hour 7:45 to 1:45 day, thus helping them to know one another better. On the college scene people are constantly coming and going, therefore rarely seeing the same person twice in a day, which accounts for fewer people being acquainted with each other. The second difference between high school and college is their policies about homework. In high school, homework is required to help motivate students to study. Knowing they have to submit assignments in algebra or history gives students an incentive to keep up with these subjects. In college most homework consists of studying; very little of it is written and turned in. If students do their homework, it is to their advantage; if they do not, the teachers will not force them to do it. The student is only wasting his own money if he neglects his course work. The third and last difference between high school and college is their attendance policies. In high school, students must attend class to get assignments and personal help in a certain area. Furthermore, high school students are less responsible; therefore, they need more guidance, which they can receive by going to class. In college, students may skip classes if they choose and refer to the syllabus to acquire missed assignments or tests. It is the student's responsibility to make work up. In spite of these differences between high school and college, they both serve the same purpose -- to prepare an individual for the real world.



Similarities Between Work and School



Work and school are very much alike in at least five ways. First, both require an early start. Going to work requires getting up early to avoid the traffic rush, and going to school requires getting up early to be assured of a parking space. Second, promptness is important in both places. Being at work on time pleases the employer; being in class on time pleases the instructor. Third, both involve quotas. A job imposes various quotas on a worker to ensure maximum production--for example, a certain amount of boxes must be filled on an assembly line, or a designated number of calls must be made by a telephone solicitor. Likewise, school imposes quotas on a student to ensure maximum effort--for instance, a certain number of essays must be written in an English composition class or a specific number of books must be read in an American Novel course. Fourth, both work and school deadlines must be met. On the job, the boxes would have to be filled and the telephone calls made by a certain time; in a class, the essays would have to be submitted and the books read by a certain date. Finally, both work and school benefit society. Workers produce useful and entertaining items for people to use, such as refrigerators and televisions. Similarly, students prepare themselves to enter fields like medicine and law, fields which serve society. It is not surprising that work and school share these five similarities, since one of the purposes of school is to prepare a student for the job of his choice.



A Question of Craftsmanship



Although new and modern houses offer many conveniences, most old houses feature craftsmanship that is not found in the average house built today. Houses constructed sixty years ago or more were built with top quality materials, resulting in very strong and handsome structures. For example, the walls were made at least three times thicker than walls in a new home, and full cut timber beams were used to support the frame, floors, and roof. Also it was common for floors and woodwork to be made of fine wood, usually oak or maple. Average houses of today are erected in a very short time with the use of prefabricated materials which do not produce a very sound structure. In addition to being better built, older houses seem to have much more ornamentation and character in their design, inside and out, than new houses. Many old homes feature large, ornate fireplaces, beautiful wooden stair cases, archways, alcoves, and stained glass windows. This kind of detailed ornamentation is in sharp contrast to the very plain and squared “ranch style” lay-out of newer homes. Because of all the fine qualities older houses offer, they would often be worth ten times their value if they were located out of the city. However, home buyers today generally prefer new homes because of their suburban locations. Even so, urban areas are making every attempt to save these excellently crafted old houses and improve their locations.

Intensive Care: Today and Yesterday



There are many differences between the intensive care a patient received yesterday and the intensive care he receives today. For example, thirty years ago a patient’s intensive care consisted of putting him in a single room, giving him oxygen and fluids, taking his vital signs frequently, and giving him medication as ordered. Nurses could not spend much time with a patient, even a critically ill patient, because nurses were so few. Since there was a shortage of nurses in those days, many nurses felt the next time they went to a patient’s room he would be dead. Many times he was. However, there has been a revolution since then. The approach to intensive care today is much different. It consists of an entire unit designed especially to care for the critically ill patient. A staff of highly trained nurses and skilled technicians are in constant contact with the patient, taking care of his every need and monitoring any change in his condition, however slight. In addition to its staff, the intensive care unit is equipped with sensitive life-saving machines. The beeping noise of the heart monitor and the red and green flashing lights of the suction machine are only a few of the reassuring sights and sounds in this world of timelessness and routine. Thanks to the staff, machines, and routine, many patients leave the intensive care unit of today to live long, healthy, happy lives.