



Comparison and Contrast

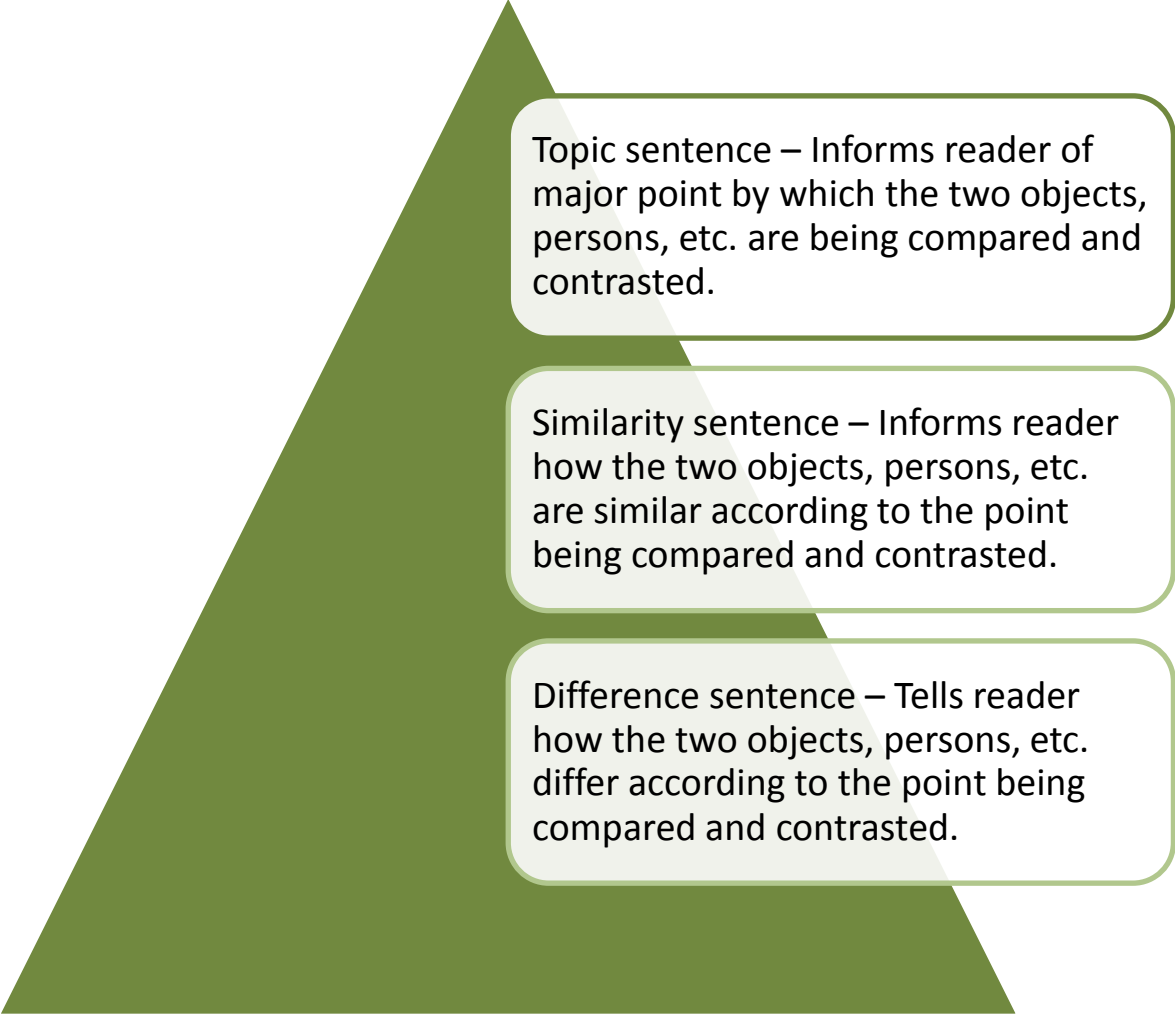
Body Paragraphs: Point-by-Point

Purpose

- State point used for comparison and contrast
- Explain similarities according to point
- Explain differences according to point



An overview

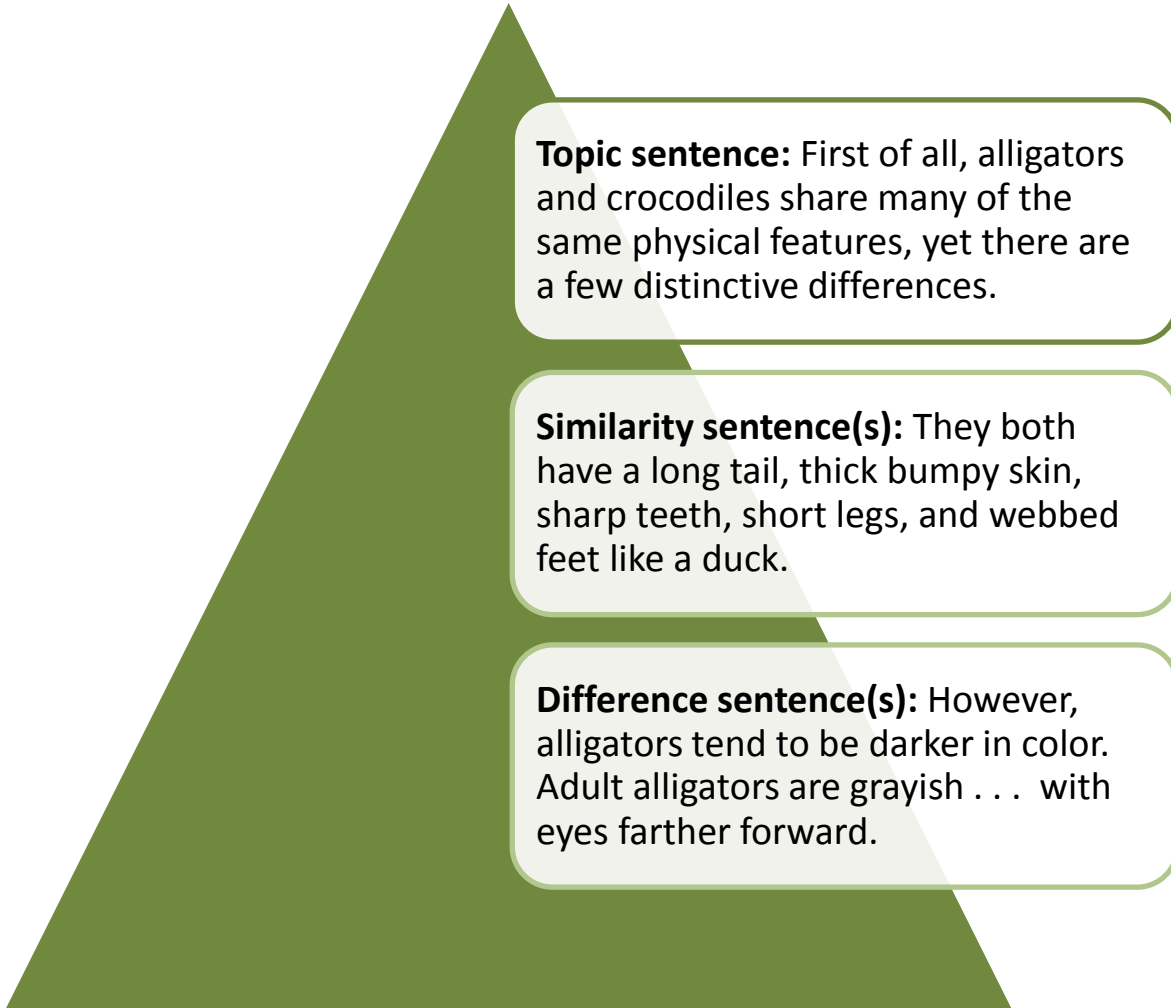


Topic sentence – Informs reader of major point by which the two objects, persons, etc. are being compared and contrasted.

Similarity sentence – Informs reader how the two objects, persons, etc. are similar according to the point being compared and contrasted.

Difference sentence – Tells reader how the two objects, persons, etc. differ according to the point being compared and contrasted.

An overview (cont.)



Topic sentence: First of all, alligators and crocodiles share many of the same physical features, yet there are a few distinctive differences.

Similarity sentence(s): They both have a long tail, thick bumpy skin, sharp teeth, short legs, and webbed feet like a duck.

Difference sentence(s): However, alligators tend to be darker in color. Adult alligators are grayish . . . with eyes farther forward.

Model body paragraph 1

First of all, alligators and crocodiles share many of the same physical features, yet there are a few distinctive differences. They both have a long tail, thick bumpy skin, sharp teeth, short legs, and webbed feet like a duck. However, alligators tend to be darker in color. Adult alligators are grayish black while adult crocodiles are light tan to brown in color. Young alligators can be more colorful with yellow or white highlights on a black body. Another difference is that most crocodiles tend to have green eyes, while alligators have brown ones. Alligators also have U-shaped heads, while crocodiles are V-shaped. Crocodiles have a longer narrower snout or nose, with eyes farther forward.

Model body paragraph 2

In addition to physical features, the two animals can be compared according to their diet. Both alligators and crocodiles are carnivores, which means they eat meat. However, they differ in the way they kill their food. American crocodiles can be dangerous to humans. Attacks in areas such as Costa Rica, Mexico and Guatemala are not uncommon. These attacks rarely make international news; therefore, this species is not as well-known a man-eater like its Nile or saltwater relatives. In May of 2007, there were two separate instances of children being attacked and killed by the American crocodile in Mexico and in Costa Rica. In contrast, alligator attacks on humans are typically a result of feeding of alligators. Once a human feeds an alligator, it expects food whenever it sees someone. Also, alligators are protective parents, and a very young alligator may have a mother nearby who will protect her young by attacking anything that comes too close.

Model body paragraph 3

The final aspect for comparison and contrast is the creatures' habitat. Both alligators and crocodiles live near water. They are both reptiles, so they live in water and on land. However, alligators are freshwater reptiles, and they like rivers, lakes, swamps, and marshes of the coast. On the other hand, crocodiles prefer coastal or salt water habitats.