

# Comparison & Contrast Thesis Writing

B. SOLOMON





# Introduction

Compare and contrast essays need and **effective thesis**. Remember, the thesis should identify a clear main idea to do its job effectively. There are two types of thesis statements that work for this type of essay: an **explanatory** or **evaluative** thesis statement. You will have to choose which type best suits the needs of your essay.



# Explanatory Thesis Statements

These thesis statements compare two subjects **objectively** while **identifying differences and similarities**. The writer does not favor one subject over another, so these exist in unbiased pieces. This type of thesis is great for expository essays and research papers.

Try to dig deep to find the point of interest when comparing subjects. Avoid the obvious to capture your reader's attention!



## Example: Explanatory Thesis Statements

- ❖ While both intermittent fasting and low carbohydrate diets display some shortcomings, each offers a number of advantages to traditional American diets.
- ❖ In the world of literary wizards, Dumbledore and Gandalf provide the most popular representations of the 'wise old man' character trope.
- ❖ Although both rely on images to tell stories, picture books and comic books each invite children to interact with text in different ways .



# Evaluative Thesis Statements

These thesis statements compare two subjects **subjectively** while **identifying differences and similarities**. The writer makes a claim that favors one subject over the other. A preference for one idea or subject is clear.

This type of thesis is great for expository essays and research papers.

Try to dig deep to find the point of interest when comparing subjects. Avoid the obvious to capture your reader's attention!



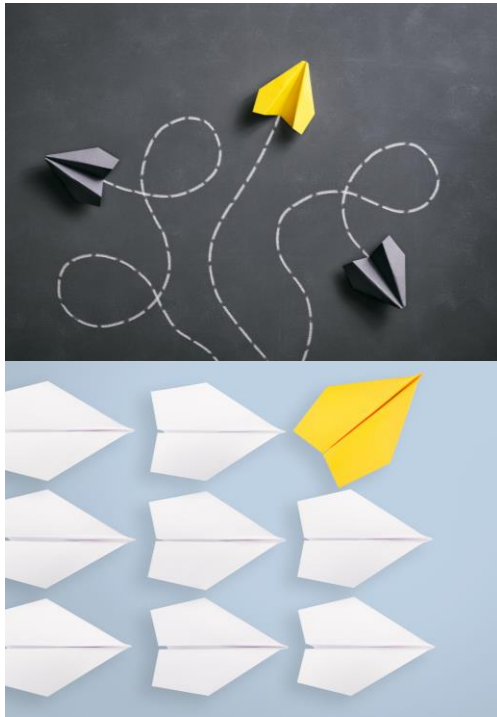
# Example: Evaluative Thesis Statements

- ❖ While both intermittent fasting and low carbohydrate diets display some shortcomings, intermittent fasting offers significant advantages to low carbohydrate diets.
- ❖ Although Dumbledore and Gandalf each represent the 'wise old man' character trope in the world of literary wizards, Gandalf is a superior literary example.
- ❖ Although both rely on images to tell stories, comic books invite children to interact with texts with a greater level of complexity than picture books.





# Compare the phrasing



## Explanatory

Although both rely on images to tell stories, picture books and comic books each invite children to interact with text in different ways.

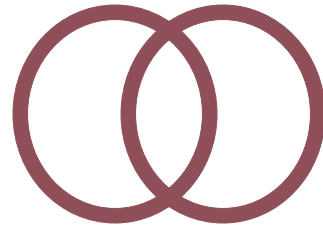
## Evaluative

Although both rely on images to tell stories, comic books invite children to interact with texts with a greater level of complexity than picture books.

# When to Use Explanatory Thesis Statements



Check your prompt carefully to understand the the writing situation. What should you accomplish by the end of the essay?



Compare and contrast two translations of Elie Wiesel's memoir *Night* by studying the language used in each.

Compare the musical influence of The Rolling Stones to The Beatles during the 1960s.





# When to Use Evaluative Thesis Statements



Check your prompt carefully to understand the the writing situation. What should you accomplish by the end of the essay?



Identify the most effective translation of Elie Wiesel's *Night* by comparing and contrasting two versions the memoir.

Compare the musical styles of The Rolling Stones with The Beatles to identify the band who most influenced 90s grunge.





*Remember:*

If your thesis statement  
veers off track, then  
REVISE to get back  
on course!