

HOW TO WRITE A COMPARATIVE ARGUMENT

A comparative argument is a discussion of a topic that is open to question. It expresses your position (thesis) with respect to a topic presented in two readings. Your essay must refer to two readings and focus on their respective positions on the topic. A well-written argument considers prospective audiences and is respectful and reasonable. Your comparative argument should be 250 words, four paragraphs. Please follow the steps below:

Introductory paragraph

1. Begin with a reporting statement that includes a sentence summary of the gist (main idea) of one of the readings.
 - Include the name of the author and the title of the reading.
 - Subordinate the name and title in a dependent clause to your summary of the gist.
 - Provide a citation.
2. Repeat step 1 for the second reading.
3. Present your position (thesis) with respect to the topic discussed in both readings.

Body paragraphs

1. Support your position (thesis) in the first body paragraph.
 - Provide reasons and evidence to back up the position.
2. Compare /counter the different/opposing positions presented in the readings in your second body paragraph.
 - Describe the positions presented in the readings with evidence from the readings.
 - Point to some common areas of agreement in either or both readings that are reconciled to your position (thesis) with evidence in the readings or direct knowledge.

Concluding paragraph

1. Reiterate your position (thesis).
2. Conclude gracefully the main reasons supporting your position on the topic.

Please use your own words when comparing the original documents.