

## Compare-Contrast Structure of Argument Criteria - *Grading Rubric*

### **Exemplary / Exceeds**

The essay includes a concise thesis statement, appropriate and well-chosen supporting evidence, and transparently leads the reader through the argument:

- Concisely explains how the compare-contrast can help someone better understand the ideas/objects being compared and why this is important in the big picture, making insightful connections in the process;
- Begins with a concise, analytical thesis statement that effectively summarizes the most critical similarities and differences in the topic;
- Includes at least three appropriate and exceptional supporting ideas;
- Uses relevant and well-chosen evidence to support the argument; and
- Employs accurate transition language to effortlessly lead the reader through the argument.

### **Proficient / Meets**

The essay includes a well-defined thesis statement, appropriate supporting evidence, and effectively leads the reader through the argument:

- Clearly explains how the compare-contrast will help someone better understand the ideas/objects being compared and why topic is important in the big picture;
- Begins with a clear, analytical thesis statement that effectively summarizes the major similarities and differences in the topic;
- Includes at least three appropriate supporting ideas;
- Uses pertinent evidence to support argument; and
- Employs relevant transition language to lead the reader through the argument effectively.

### **Areas for Improvement**

The essay includes only a partial thesis statement and/or some supporting evidence.

### **Significant Reteaching**

The essay includes little or no thesis statement, little or no supporting evidence, and does not lead the reader through the argument.