

Supplementary Module for The Word Combination Card Arts Press

Compare-Contrast Essay Module: Two Careers



Level: High Intermediate

Overview: This unit consists of a series of exercises that lead to the writing of a comparison-contrast essay based on content from the <u>Occupational Outlook Handbook</u> on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' website (<u>https://www.bls.gov/ooh</u>).

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1. Sample Comparison-Contrast Essay on Two Careers: Museum Curators and Interior Designers

Instructions: Read the essay below. As you read, <u>underline</u> words and phrases that show comparison or contrast. See the *Comparison-Contrast* section of the **Word Combination Card** for types of comparison-contrast expression. Some samples have been done for you.

Considering Two Occupations: Museum Curators and Interior Designers

(Introductory Paragraph)

(1) For college students, choosing a career can be difficult for a variety of reasons. (2) Many college students do not know the educational requirements or salary of an occupation. (3) Various industries have <u>different</u> levels of job competition for job-seekers. (4) Therefore, it is important to explore careers to make this important decision. (5) This essay <u>contrasts</u> two careers, namely, museum curating and interior design, in order to describe <u>differences and similarities between</u> these two occupations and decide which is <u>more</u> suitable to what kind of individual. (6) There are a number of differences between museum curators and interior designers in terms of their work environments and the potential benefits of their occupations.

(Body Paragraph 1)

(7) One significant difference between museum curators and interior designers is in their job situations and requirements. (8) While interior designers typically help individuals or companies to plan decorations in rooms and inside buildings, museum curators frequently collect and manage historical objects and documents. (9) This means that a museum curator has a more important job in relation to history, but an interior designer is more important to people who want beautiful and well-designed interiors of rooms, houses, or buildings. (10) Next, both of these occupations are usually done inside offices, but museum curators sometimes need to give tours in museums and work on exhibits. (11) Therefore, the occupation of museum curators is a little more exciting but possibly more stressful than an interior designer's job. (12) Finally, interior designers frequently only need a bachelor's degree to find their first job. (13) On the other hand, museum curators must have a master's degree, and therefore, they clearly have to spend more time and money studying in college.

(Body Paragraph 2)

(14) Next, museum curators and interior designers are similar in terms of their median incomes, but their occupations are different in regard to other benefits. (15) According to the

Occupational Outlook Handbook, the median income of interior designers is almost \$50,000 a year, while the income of museum curators is a little less, approximately \$47,000 annually, which is not a major difference. (16) However, data in the OOH shows that while there are only about 10,000 museum curator jobs in the U.S., there are over 65,000 jobs for interior designers. (17) It seems that due to the larger number of jobs for interior designers, it is generally easier for them to find jobs than for museum curators. (18) Nevertheless, both of the occupations are interesting because those people make plans to design rooms in homes or in buildings.

(Concluding Paragraph)

(19) To sum up, there are similarities between these two occupations in that they have similar salaries and they both do planning for rooms. (20) However, museum curators often have to study longer, have a larger variety of duties than interior planners do, and have fewer job opportunities than interior designers do. (21) It seems that museum curators want a job that involves more historical research and the preservation of historical items, while interior designers are more interested in creating new environments.

Source: Details and numbers are from the articles "Museum Curators" and "Interior Designers" on the online *Occupational Outlook Handbook* (<u>https://www.bls.gov/ooh/a-z-index.htm</u>).

2. Noticing the Thesis, Topics, and Hedging Language in the Essay

Instructions: Answer the questions below based on the essay in Exercise 1.

- a. First, review *Topic Statements and Thesis Statements* in the **Word Combination Card**. Then, write the numbers of the thesis statement and topic sentences in the essay on pages 2 to 3.
 - The thesis statement
 - The two topic sentences

Note: You will write these sentences in the same locations in your essay when you do Exercise 7.

- b. Based on the thesis statement, write the two occupations and points of comparison-contrast.
 - Occupation 1 ______
 - Occupation 2 _____

Point of Comparison-Contrast 1 ______

- Point of Comparison-Contrast 2 ______
- c. First, review the *Degrees of Certainty and Frequency* in the **Word Combination Card**. Then, find samples of these expressions in the essay. Two samples have been done for you.

about 10,000 museum curator jobs (sentence 16)

often have to study (sentence 20)

Note: You will use these types of expressions for Exercise 5 and in your essay in Exercise 7.

3. Producing Comparison-Contrast Sentences

A. Instructions: First, review the *Expressing Ideas: Comparison-Contrast* section of the **Word Combination Card**. Then, use the information in the table below to write sentences that use the patterns in the card. In addition, in each sentence, use the words in parentheses (...).

	Wildlife Biologists	Microbiologists
Median Pay in 2016	\$60,520 per year	\$66,850 per year
Typical entry-Level Education	Bachelor's degree	Bachelor's degree
Number of Jobs in 2016	19,400	23,200
Job Outlook in the next decade	8%	8%
Work environment	in offices and outdoors	in offices and laboratories

1. ("*differ"*)

Wildlife biologists differ from microbiologists in terms of their work environments.

- 2. (use "different from" or "unlike")
- 3. (*more X / X-er than...*)
- 4. ("while")
- 5. (use "in contrast" or "on the other hand")
- 6. (use "similar to" or "like")

7. ("*the same as"*)

8. (use "similarly" or "likewise")

Part B: First, review pattern 1 in the *Sentence Starters* section of the **Word Combination Card**. Pay attention to the words "similarity" and "difference." Then, write sentences below based on the chart in Part A. In your sentences, use the phrase "...is that...," which must have both a subject and verb after it. Look carefully at the two samples that have been provided.

1. ("similarity")

<u>One similarity between microbiologists and wildlife biologists is that their typical</u>

entry-level education is a bachelor's degree.

2. ("difference")

<u>One primary difference between microbiologists and wildlife biologists is that</u>

microbiologists generally work in laboratories, while wildlife biologists usually work outdoors.

3. ("difference")

4. ("similarity")

4. Editing Comparison-Contrast Language

Instructions: First, review the *Expressing Ideas: Comparison-Contrast* section of the **Word Combination Card**. Then, edit the comparison-contrast language, including words and punctuation, in the sentences below.

1. The jobs of television newscasters are **different** about newspaper journalists in terms of their

from

method of communication.

2. Television newscasters are seen on television and sometimes the internet, in contrast

newspaper journalists are usually not seen on television

3. As the OOH indicates, the median income of television newscasters is thousands of dollars high

than the income of newspaper journalists.

- 4. These two occupations are **similar** in that terms of their goal of reporting the news.
- 5. Television newscasters broadcast news verbally. While, newspaper journalists publish

information in papers and online.

- 6. Television broadcasters are seen in the public often **than** newspaper reporters are.
- Television newscasters sometimes share news on the internet. Similarly to, newspaper journalists might publish news on internet websites.
- 8. Television newscasters are **the same as** newspaper journalists with respect to their responsibility to share accurate news quickly.
- 9. According to the OOH, the occupation of television newscasters is **similar** for newspaper journalists in that the numbers of both jobs are expected to decrease in the next ten years.

5. Adding "Hedging" Language: Frequency and Quantity

Instructions: First, review the *Degrees of Frequency and Certainty (Hedging)* section of the **Word Combination Card**. Then, rewrite the sentences below and add logical hedging words and phrases. Focus on **frequency** and **quantity** expressions. A sample has been done for you.

1. Both nutritionists and athletic trainers give others guidance.

Both nutritionists and athletic trainers **typically** give others guidance.

- 2. Athletic trainers work with athletes, while nutritionists work with other types of people.
- 3. Nutritionists' income is higher than athletic trainers'.
- 4. There are job opportunities for nutritionists in the U.S., while people cannot find jobs as athletic trainers.

- 5. Nutritionists and athletic trainers must have bachelor's degrees for entry-level jobs.
- 6. Nutritionists work in hospitals. In contrast, athletic trainers work in schools.
- 7. According to the OOH, Nutritionists' median income is \$58,920, while athletic trainers' is \$45,630. (**Tip**: Generalize the numbers by rounding up or down.)

6. Note-Taking and Paraphrasing for an Essay on Two Occupations

A. Instructions: In the following table, there are original quotes in quotation marks "..." and then samples of paraphrased notes from those quotes. The paraphrased notes are based on several strategies.

- (a) **Reduce**: Multiple sentences are summarized in shorter phrases. Unnecessary details are removed.
- (b) **Select**: No lists are copied. Instead, some words are selected to use as examples in the essay.
- (c) **Use synonyms**: General verbs and nouns are replaced with synonyms, while specialized words are kept.
- (d) **Change parts of speech**: Parts of speech are changed, such as nouns to verbs or verbs to nouns or gerunds.

Next, read the original text and compare it with the sample paraphrased notes in the following table. Notice the four methods of paraphrasing described above.

	Occupation 1: Interior Designers	Occupation 2: Museum Curators
Original text	"Interior designers make interior spaces functional, safe, and beautiful by determining space requirements and selecting decorative items, such as colors, lighting, and materials. They read blueprints and must be aware of building codes and inspection regulations, as well as universal accessibility standards."	"Archivists appraise, process, catalog, and preserve permanent records and historically valuable documents. Curators oversee collections of artwork and historic items, and may conduct public service activities for an institution. Museum technicians and conservators prepare and restore objects and documents in museum collections and exhibits."
Sample Paraphrased notes	plan ways to use and decorate rooms inside buildings; colors, lighting, etc.; know how to read blueprints, inspection regulations, etc.	Collect, evaluate, protect, record historically important objects, such as art, documents, and other historical objects

Original text	 Search for and bid on new projects Determine the client's goals and requirements for the project Consider how the space will be used and how people will move through the space Sketch preliminary design plans, including electrical and partition layouts Specify materials and furnishings, such as lighting, furniture, wall finishes, flooring, and plumbing fixtures Create a timeline for the interior design project and estimate project costs Place orders for materials and oversee the installation of the design elements Oversee construction and coordinate with general building contractors to implement the plans and specifications for the project 	 "Acquire, store, and exhibit collections Select the theme and design of exhibits Design, organize, and conduct tours and workshops for the public Attend meetings and civic events to promote their institution Clean objects such as ancient tools, coins, and statues Direct and supervise curatorial, technical, and student staff Plan and conduct special research projects"
Sample Paraphrased notes	Plan the style of a room, such as lighting and furniture, plan the schedule and estimate costs of interior design	Collect and maintain historical objects, give tours, direct staff, plan research
Original Text	"\$49,810 per year \$23.95 per hour"	"\$47,230 per year \$22.71 per hour"
Sample paraphrased notes	Almost \$50,000 a year	About \$47,000 annually

B. Instructions: In the next table, there are original quotes in quotation marks "…". Write paraphrased notes in the spaces beneath the original. Use the four methods presented in Part A. Sample notes are in the Answer Key.

	Occupation 1: Interior Designers	Occupation 2: Museum Curators
Original text	"Most interior designers work in offices, but technology has changed the way many designers work. For example, rather than using drafting tables, interior designers now use complex software to create two-dimensional or three- dimensional images."	"Depending on the size of the institution and the position they hold, they may work at a desk or spend their time working with the public, providing reference assistance and educational services. Museum workers who restore and set up exhibits or work with bulky, heavy record containers may have to lift objects, climb ladders and scaffolding, and stretch to reach items. Most archivists, curators, museum technicians, and conservators work full time. Archivists in government agencies and corporations generally work during regular business hours."
Your paraphrased notes		
• Job Outlook	"Employment, 2016: 66,500" "Employment of interior designers is projected to grow 5 percent from 2016 to 2026, about as fast as the average for all occupations."	"Employment, 2016: 12,400" "Employment of archivists is projected to grow 14 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations. Demand for archivists is expected to increase as public and private organizations require increasing volumes of records and information to be organized and made accessible."
Your paraphrased notes		

7. Writing a Comparison-Contrast Essay

Instructions: You will write an essay in which you describe the differences and/or similarities between two occupations. To write this essay, you must collect notes, organize the points for your essay, and write your essay. Follow the instructions in Parts A, B, and C below.

Part A: Collecting Notes and Paraphrasing Information

- 1. **Visit** the U.S. Department of Labor's *Occupational Outlook Handbook* at http://www.bls.gov/ooh/. You may use only this resource and no other for your essay.
- 2. **Find** the list under "Occupation Groups" on the left side of the page.
- 3. **Choose** two occupations that are interesting to you. In the table below, write their names next to "Occupation 1" and "Occupation 2."
- 4. **Open** each occupation on the website for complete information. Look at the information under each tab, such as "what they do," "work environment," "how to become one," and so on.
- 5. **Take paraphrased notes** in the notes table below according to the categories. Select information you need for your essay. Copy essential words and phrases, but do not copy sentences.

Important: To paraphrase properly, look at Exercise 6 to see samples of note-taking and paraphrasing about the essay on interior designers and museum curators.

	Occupation 1:	Occupation 2:
The Job Situation		
1. Job Activities		
2. Duties		

3. Required	
Training and	
Training and Certification	
Certification	
4. The Work	
Environment	
Benefits of the Job	
Median Income	
• Median Income	
Job Outlook	
Job outlook	
Your own opinion	
about the careers	
about the careers	

Part B: Organizing the Ideas for Your Essay

Instructions: Before you write your essay, use your notes to write main points and details (no sentences) in the outline below to organize your contrast essay. This can help you make your ideas logical, parallel, and complete. Look ahead at Part C to see what kinds of ideas you might need.

Introductory Paragraph (a few sentences and the thesis statement)		
Body Paragraph 1 Topic (a comparison-contrast topic sentence and several supporting		
sentences)		
sentences		
Body Paragraph 1 Topic (a comparison-contrast topic sentence and several supporting		
sentences)		
Concluding Paragraph (2 or more sentences to summarize the comparison-contrast)		

Part C: Writing Your Essay

Instructions: Follow your outline to write the essay. As you write, refer to the *Comparison-Contrast* and *Expressing Degrees of Certainty and Frequency* sections of the **Word Combination Card**. Below are additional tips.

a. Introductory paragraph: Write two or three sentences before your thesis statement. They should be related to the general topic of choosing a career. Consider some of the following ideas to start your introductory paragraph. Also see the sample essay for ideas.

Ways to Open a Comparison-Contrast Paragraph about Two Occupations

- Mention some interesting or important aspects of jobs in general, such as those in the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, that college students might consider when they choose college majors.
- Give examples of common or popular jobs and reasons why people have such jobs. (These should not be the jobs in your thesis statement.)
- Give examples of interesting or unusual jobs and what makes them distinct. (These should not be the jobs in your thesis statement.)
- Describe reasons why it is sometimes difficult for college students to select a career.
- Discuss ways that college students try to decide what careers to enter.
- **b. Body Paragraphs**: Your body paragraphs should start with a topic sentence that indicates the general topic of comparison and/or contrast (See *Sentence Starters* in the **WCC**). Then, write about these topics to show differences and/or similarities based on your notes. Provide facts, but also answer questions about the facts, such as "Why is X important?"; "What is the effect of X?"; "What is the benefit or challenge of X?"; and so on. Look at the sample essay for ideas.

Note: You must only use the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* for your information. However, in the paragraph about benefits, you must also provide your own opinion about what makes the jobs satisfying and/or beneficial according to the details you describe.

c. Concluding Paragraph

• In the conclusion, you must do two things: (a) summarize how the two jobs are similar and how they are different and (b) say which occupation you think is more suitable to which type of people. See the sample essay for ideas.

d. Acknowledging Your Source of Information

- You should only use paraphrased ideas: never copy or imitate sentences. When you collect notes for your essay, you must make an effort to paraphrase everything. You should keep essential words, but all sentences must be completely restructured.
- In your essay, you should mention the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* at least two times after specific facts in your essay and especially after numbers that you find on the website. Review the sections *Academic Prepositions* and *Reporting Information* in the **Word Combination Card** for useful expressions. Also, look for examples of acknowledging the source in the sample essay.

e. Discussing People versus Occupations

• When you write, make sure you know the difference between nouns that refer to occupations and nouns that refer to the people who do these occupations. Otherwise, you might write sentences which are confusing. For example, it is inaccurate to write, "**Painting** earns a median income of almost \$38,000 annually" because "painting" cannot earn money. Instead, the sentence should be "**Painters** earn a median income of almost \$38,000 annually." Look at the samples in the following table.

People	Fields
Nurses	Nursing
Musicians	Music
Teachers/educators	Teaching/education
Doctors	Medicine
Police officers	Law enforcement
Lawyers	Law
Politicians	Politics
Photographers	Photography
Artists	Art
Anthropologists/archaeologists	Anthropology/archaeology
Journalists/reporters	Journalism/reporting

• Check a dictionary if you need additional vocabulary about different fields or professions. Also, to talk about specific jobs (not the people), you may use the phrase "the job of X" (e.g., the job of museum curators, the job of interior designers, etc.).

Sample Answers for Exercises 1 to 5

1. Sample Essay on Two Careers: Museum Curators and Interior Designers

(1) For college students, choosing a career can be difficult for a variety of reasons. (2) Many college students do not know the educational requirements or salary of an occupation. (3) Various industries have different levels of job competition for job-seekers. (4) Therefore, it is important to explore careers to make this important decision. (5) This essay contrasts two careers, namely, museum curators and interior designers, in order to describe differences and similarities between these two occupations and decide which is more suitable to what kind of individual. (6) There are a number of differences between museum curators and interior designers in terms of their work environments and the potential benefits of their occupations.

(7) One significant difference between museum curators and interior designers is in their job situations and requirements. (8) While interior designers typically help individuals or companies and plan decorations in rooms and inside buildings, museum curators frequently collect and manage historical objects and documents. (9) This means that a museum curator has a more important job in relation to history, but an interior designer is more important to people who want beautiful and well-designed interiors of rooms, houses, or buildings. (10) Next, both of these occupations are usually done inside offices, but most museum curators also sometimes need to give tours in museums and work on exhibits. (11) Therefore, their occupation is a little more exciting but possibly more stressful than interior designers' job. (12) Finally, interior designers frequently only need a bachelor's degree to find their first job. (13) On the other hand, museum curators must have a master's degree, and therefore they clearly have to spend more time and money studying in college.

(14) Next, museum curators and interior designers are similar in terms of their median incomes, but their occupations are different in regard to other benefits. (15) According to the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, the median income of interior designers is almost \$50,000 a year, while the income of museum curators is a little less, approximately \$47,000 annually, which is not a major difference. (16) However, data in the OOH shows that while there are only about 10,000 museum curator jobs in the U.S., there are over 65,000 jobs for interior designers. (17) It seems that due to the larger number of jobs for interior designers, it is generally easier for them to find jobs than for museum curators. (18) Overall, both of the occupations are interesting because those people make plans to design rooms in homes or in buildings.

(19) To sum up, there are similarities between these two occupations in that they have similar **salaries** and they both do planning for rooms. (20) However, museum curators often have to study longer, have to a larger variety of duties than interior planners do, and have fewer job opportunities than interior designers do. (21) It seems that museum curators want a job that involves more historical research and keeping things, while interior designers are more interested in creating things.

2. Noticing Language in the Essay

a.

- The thesis statement 6
- The two topic sentences 7 14

b.

- Occupation 1 museum curators
- Occupation 2 interior designers
- Point of Comparison 1 the situations of those job
- Point of Comparison 2 the benefits of jobs

c. (The words are indicated followed by the numbers of the sentences where they are in the essay.)

choosing a career can be difficult (1)
a variety of reasons (1)
many college students (2)
various industries (3)
interior designers typically help individuals (8)
museum curators frequently collect and manage (8)
both of these occupations are usually done (10)

museum curators sometimes need (10)
most museum curators (10)
possibly more stressful (11)
interior designers frequently only need (12)
almost \$50,000 a year (15)
approximately \$47,000 annually (15)
about 10,000 museum curator jobs (16)
over 65,000 jobs for interior designers (16)
it is generally easier (17)
the larger number of jobs for interior designers (17)
museum curators often have to study longer (19)
have fewer job opportunities (20)

3. Producing Comparison-Contrast Sentences

ANSWERS MAY VARY. Below are sample sentences.

Part A:

2. Wildlife Biologists and different from/unlike microbiologists in terms of their work environments/incomes/numbers of jobs in 2016.

3. Wildlife Biologists have higher median incomes than Microbiologists do. OR Microbiologists' median income is about \$6,000 higher than wildlife biologists' salaries. OR There are more jobs for microbiologists than for wildlife biologists.

4. Wildlife biologists typically work outdoors, while microbiologists often work indoors.

5. Microbiologists' median income is almost \$67,000. In contrast,/On the other hand, wildlife biologists earn only about \$60,000 a year.

6. Wildlife biologists are similar to/are like microbiologists in regard to their required entry-level education/their future job outlooks.

7. Wildlife biologists are the same as microbiologists with respect to their required entry-level education/their future job outlooks.

8. Wildlife biologists need at least bachelor's degrees for entry-level jobs. Similarly,/Likewise, microbiologists must have at least a bachelor's degree to get their first position.

Part B:

3. One primary difference between these two careers/occupations/professions is that wildlife biologists often work outdoors, while microbiologists generally work in laboratories.

4. One similarity between wildlife biologists and microbiologists is that they both have positive job outlooks in the next ten years.

4. Editing Comparison-Contrast language

2. Television newscasters are seen on television and sometimes the internet, in contrast. In contrast, newspaper journalists are usually not seen on television

3. As the OOH indicates, the median income of television newscasters is thousands of dollars **higher** than the income of newspaper journalists.

4. These two occupations are similar in that terms of their goal of reporting the news.

5. Television newscasters broadcast news verbally. While, , while newspaper journalists publish information in papers and online.

6. Television broadcasters are seen in the public **more** often than newspaper reporters are.

7. Television newscasters sometimes share news on the internet. Similarly to, newspaper journalists might publish news on internet websites.

8. Television newscasters are the same as newspaper journalists with respecting **respect** to their responsibility to share accurate news quickly.

9. According to the OOH, the occupation of television newscasters is similar for to newspaper journalists in that the numbers of both jobs are expected to decrease in the next ten years.

5. Adding "Hedging" Language: Frequency and Quantity

ANSWERS MAY VARY. Below are sample responses.

2. Athletic trainers **generally/typically/etc.** work with athletes, while nutritionists **often/frequently/etc.** work with other types of people.

3. Nutritionists' income is **usually/typically/etc.** higher than Athletic trainers'. OR Nutritionists' income **tends to be/is likely to be** higher than Athletic trainers'.

4. There **is a large number of** nutritionists' jobs in the U.S., while **some** people cannot find jobs as athletic trainers. OR ..., while people **sometimes** cannot find jobs as athletic trainers.

5. **Many/A majority of/Most** nutritionists and athletic trainers must have bachelor's degrees for entry-level jobs.

6. Nutritionists **usually/typically/often/etc.** work in hospitals. In contrast, **most/many/a large number of** athletic trainers work in schools. OR **Most/Many/A large number of** nutritionists work in hospitals. In contrast, athletic trainers **usually/typically/often/etc.** work in schools.

7. According to the OOH, Nutritionists' median income is **almost/nearly/about/approximately** \$59,000, while athletic trainers' is **almost/nearly/about/approximately** \$45,000.

6. Note-Taking and Paraphrasing for an Essay on Two Occupations

Part B: Answers will vary. The following are examples of paraphrased notes.

Sample paraphrased notes	Work on computers in offices, use interior design software	Sometimes at desks and sometimes talking with the public, sometimes working on exhibits
Sample paraphrased notes	Over 65,000 jobs in 2016, growing at a rate that is similar to other jobs	Over 10,000 positions in 2016, will continue to grow significantly in the next ten years