Essay 2: Comparison/Contrast

For your second essay, you have two options. You may either write a comparison/contrast essay, or you may write a process analysis essay. Both options will require you to find and cite at least one outside source.

The structure for Comparison essay is discussed in depth in Chapter 7 in The Bedford Reader; the structure for Process Analysis essays is discussed in Chapter 8. You may choose any topic from those listed on the back of this page or another topic, with my prior approval. My expectations are as follows:

1. The essay will be well-organized and well developed, using detailed examples to make a fleshed out comparison or explanation of your subjects.
2. The essay will have both an introduction and a conclusion that contain relevant information and a summary of the paper's contents.
3. The essay will be at least three typed, double-spaced pages long, and it will have a title, page numbers on every page after the first, and your name, our class meeting time, and the date in the top right-hand corner of the first page only. It will use a standard, serif font (for instance: Times New Roman) in a twelve point size.
4. Outside sources used to confirm information within your piece or to come up with further details about your subjects must be cited using MLA style. We will review this style in class; it is also spelled out in your LB Brief handbook and your Bedford Reader.
5. The essay will be free from distracting errors of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. I will pay particular attention to your use of compound and complex sentences, your use of apostrophes, and your proofreading (i.e., missing words/switched letters).
6. Paragraphs should each have a clear topic sentence and developing details, and they should have transitions between them.
7. The drafts brought to class for peer review will be complete and thoughtful, and your participation in peer editing will be respectful and engaged.

If you struggle with composing this paper, seek help immediately, from me (your instructor) or from the Writing Center. I will be available during my regular office hours (Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:30 a.m.) to assist you, and I will respond to email outside of these hours as much as I can.

Deadlines:

Bring three printed, complete drafts to class ____________ for peer editing and review.

The final version of this essay will be due on _____________. You must turn in all edited versions in addition to the final version at this time.
Comparison Essay Options:

In a thoughtful discussion with equal weight offered to both sides, compare or contrast any of the two subjects/items listed below. You may adopt a light-hearted tone (such as in Dave Berry’s “Batting Clean-Up and Striking Out” essay) or choose to tackle something more seriously. Use examples, including personal experience, personal analysis, and outside research, to offer detailed descriptions of and analysis of both items.

Two essays we have read (or two essays contained in our reader) on specific points of style, structure, or purpose

Two professional or college sports teams

Two movies

Two characters from the same book or two characters from different books

Television when you were a kid and television today

Two neighborhoods where you have lived

Two jobs you’ve had

Process Analysis Options:

Choose a process you’re familiar with and, in a detailed, complex essay (not a list!) lead the reader through it from start to finish, including all materials needed to complete the process. This may be a serious description (as in Orwell’s description of shooting an elephant) or it may take a more light-hearted tone (as in Ian Frazier’s instructions for operating a shower curtain). Regardless of your tone, you must include reference to at least one outside resource that you’ve consulted to compose your instructions.

Suggestions for instructions:

- Surviving your first day at LBCC
- Learning to drive (based on personal experience)
- Becoming and thriving as a parent

Be certain that your essay includes a discussion of why this process would be interesting or vital for your audience.

You may write on a different topic, but please run your topic by me in advance.