

TRAITS OF A WELL-WRITTEN COMPARE AND CONTRAST SHORT ANSWER RESPONSE

- **Written with complete sentences**
- **Written with TTQA split into two parts:**
 1. Imagine the prompt is: “Compare and contrast Bobby and Mary. Give examples to support your response.”
 2. Turn the prompt into a question, like: “What similarities and differences do Bobby and Mary have?” or “How are Bobby and Mary similar to and different from each other?”
 3. Write a response that splits up the TTQA into two parts, such as “Bobby and Mary are similar because...” (Now explain how they’re similar.) “They are different because...” (Explain how they’re different.)
- **Well organized**
 - Examples:
 - (1) Similarities (2) Item A (3) Item B
 - (1) Similarities (2) Paired Differences
 - (1) Topic-by-topic
 - Use paragraphs to keep your response clear.
- **Selective**
 - Ask yourself: “What similarities and differences are the most effective for sharing information?” or “Which are the most important?”
 - Be poignant!
 - NON-Examples: “Bobby and Mary are both humans.” and “Bobby is male and Mary is female.”
- **Thorough**
 - Don’t neglect to answer part of the question.
 - Check your work!
 - People who leave parts out often do so because they ran out of room, ran out of time, or just forgot. None of these are good excuses, however!