

# Tips on Writing a Comparison Essay

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## Tips on Writing a Comparison Essay



### NOTE:

1. This is not a presentation for beginners. It is being used after students finished the unit on comparison essay and submitted their essays. The tips are to help students improve their writing.
2. The sample is very short. Your actual essay should have more support and details.



# Hello!

**I am Dr Lamya Alkooheji**  
*Instructor of ENGL 155 (Essay Writing)*





# 1. Planning



## Compare and Contrast

**A** and **B**



### Criteria

Point 1

Point 2

Point 3

## Compare and Contrast **Ford Fusion** and **Honda Accord**



Both are midsize salon cars

### Criteria

Point 1: price

Point 2: gurantee

Point 3: technology

Point 4: Expenses (fuel and maintanance)

## BLOCK METHOD

### Body 1: Ford Fusion

Point 1: price

Point 2: gurantee

Point 3: technology

Point 4: Expenses (fuel and maintainance)

### Body 2: Honda Accord

Point 1: price

Point 2: gurantee

Point 3: technology

Point 4: Expenses (fuel and maintainance)

## Point-by-Point Method



Body 1: Point 1: price of Ford Fusion vs. Honda Accord

Body 2: Point 2: gurantee of Ford Fusion vs. Honda Accord

Body 3: Point 3: technology Ford Fusion vs. Honda Accord

Body 4: Point 4: Expenses (fuel and maintanance) Ford  
Fusion vs. Honda Accord





**Notice:** For a short essay, if you have three points to compare, this should be enough.



## 2. Writing the Body



## Compare and Contrast **Ford Fusion** and **Honda Accord**



Both are midsize salon cars

### **Criteria**

Point 1: price

Point 2: gurantee

Point 3: technology

Point 4: Expenses (fuel and maintanance)

## BLOCK METHOD

To start with, **Ford Fusion** costs BD XX. This is relatively expensive for someone with average income. Ford Fusion's gurantee is valid for four years or for X kilometers. This is longer than gurantee most cars. As for technology features, the car has SYNC, which can keep drivers connected with advanced communications and entertainment features. It has an 8-inch screen.

On the other hand, **Honda Accord** costs BD XX, which is cheaper. The gurantee,however, is only for three years. When it comes to technology, Honda Accord has Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, which allows drivers to easily and conveniently connect their smartphones and access phone features. There is also an auto-dimming rear-view mirror.



Each **body paragraph** should start with a **Topic Sentence**.

Remember to use transition words where needed.  
See pp. 116-119.



## Point-by-Point Method

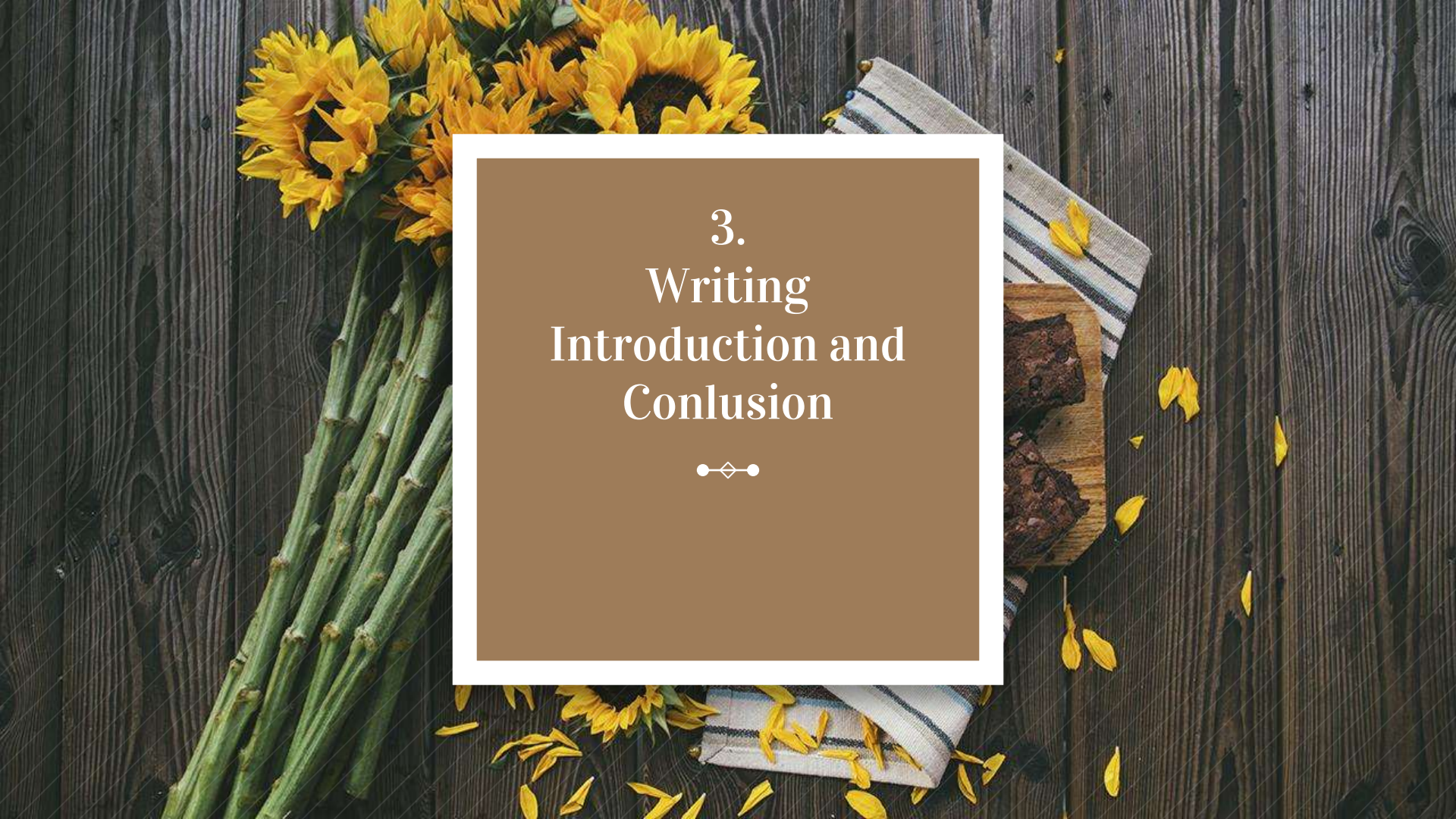


**First of all, both** Ford Fusion and Honda accord are reasonably priced; **the former** costs BD X **while the latter** costs BD Y, which makes it **cheaper**.



**However**, the gurantee period is different. Ford Fusion's gurantee is **better than** that of Hond Accord. Ford Fusion has a four-year gurantee **whereas** Ford Honda has a three-year gurantee. This **might** make a considerable difference in maintanace cost.

**Both** Ford Fusion and Honda Accord have impressive technology features. Ford Fusion r has SYNC, which can keep drivers connected with advanced communications and entertainment features. It has an 8-inch screen. **Similarly,** Honda Accord has special features. It has Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, which allows drivers to easily and conveniently connect their smartphones and access phone features. The is **also** an auto-dimming rear-view mirror.



### 3. Writing Introduction and Conclusion



The body of the essay is ready! Now write the introduction



Hook (p. 10). Connecting information (some facts or background information). Thesis statement (follow guidelines in textbook on p. 115).

After you get your first job and receive your first salary, will you start considering buying your own car ? There are various options to choose from, indeed. If you are considering a midsize car, then Ford Fusion and Honda Accord are two popular options with a lot of positive feedback from their owners. Although there are some similarities between the two, there are also some differences.



## And the conclusion See p. 23

Transition (e.g. To sum up, On the whole, In short, In summary,) restate your thesis. Summarise the major points of the body. Add a recommendation or an evaluation.

On the whole, both Ford Fusion and Honda Accord are good midsize cars. Honda Accord is slightly cheaper while Ford Fusion has a longer guarantee. Both have the state of art technology. I personally prefer Honda Accord and I would recommend it to first time buyers.



### 3. Final Layout Options



## Block Method

or

## Point-by-Point Method

Introduction

Body 1: Ford Fusion paragraph (price, guarantee, technology)

Body 2: Honda Accord paragraph (price, guarantee, technology)

Conclusion

Introduction

Body 1: price paragraph

Body 2: guarantee paragraph

Body 3: technology paragraph

Conclusion