

A Sample Comparison and Contrast Essay

Directions: Please read the comparison and contrast essay on the following pages and answer these questions:

- 1) Find the thesis statement, the topic sentences, and the restatement of the thesis.
- 2) Why is the word “further” used in the thesis statement?

- 3) How are the three topic sentences different from each other?

- 4) How does the thesis statement differ from the restatement of the thesis?

- 5) For variety, what other words are used instead of “bacterial conjunctivitis” and “allergic conjunctivitis”?

- 6) Find the following transitions and connectors:
- a) transitions that begin a sentence and have a comma right after them
 - b) words of comparison
 - c) words of contrast
 - d) words of addition
- 7) Look at line 28. Which of the following comes after the word “whereas?”
- a) a verb
 - b) a comma
 - c) a semi-colon
 - d) an adjective clause
 - e) a complete sentence
 - f) an adverb
- 8) Look at the two places where “although” is used in lines 8 and 24. Where is “although” placed in the sentences?

- 9) Which of the following comes after the word “although”?
- a) a verb
 - b) a comma
 - c) a semi-colon
 - d) an adjective clause
 - f) a complete sentence
 - g) an adverb

10) On line 26, why is “those with either condition” used instead of “those with both conditions”?

11) Fill in the blank in the following transition:
In _____ case of bacterial conjunctivitis, the eye drops contain antibiotics.

12) In the thesis statement, the names of the diseases are not used. Why? What is used instead?

Comparing and Contrasting Bacterial Conjunctivitis and Allergic Conjunctivitis

1 Conjunctivitis is the inflammation of the conjunctiva, which is the clear
2 membrane that covers the surface of the eyeball and lines the inside of the eye lid. Conjunctivitis
3 is commonly known as pink eye because the inflammation causes the blood vessels in the
4 conjunctiva to dilate, giving the eye a pink or red color. This condition is the most common eye
5 disease in the Western hemisphere, afflicting one in every 50 patients who visit a physician.
6 Two types of pink eye are bacterial conjunctivitis, due to a bacterium, and allergic conjunctivitis,
7 resulting from a reaction of the immune system to a substance in the environment. Bacterial
8 conjunctivitis is more common in children although adults are sometimes also affected. In
9 addition, newborn babies can acquire bacterial conjunctivitis when they are exposed to bacteria
10 that are normally present in the mother's cervix during birth. For this reason, doctors commonly
11 administer eye drops to newborn babies shortly after birth in order to prevent the infection,
12 which can cause blindness. In contrast, allergic conjunctivitis is more common in adults. These
13 two eye conditions can be further compared and contrasted according to their causes, symptoms,
14 and methods of treatment.

15 The causes of bacterial and allergic conjunctivitis are different. Bacterial conjunctivitis is
16 results from bacteria that spread via hand-to-eye contact, most commonly *Staphylococcus*
17 *aureus*. This type of conjunctivitis is highly contagious, leading to frequent epidemics in schools
18 and day care centers. Unlike bacterial conjunctivitis, allergic conjunctivitis arises from an
19 allergic reaction when the eye comes into contact with certain substances, such as cosmetics,
20 contact lens cleaning solutions, or pollen. In response to these triggers, the body produces
21 antibodies that cause special cells in the lining of the eyes to release histamines. Histamines are

22 inflammatory chemicals that combat the allergy causing substance and lead to a number of
23 allergy symptoms, including pink eye.

24 Although the two types of conjunctivitis share some symptoms, they differ in others. In
25 both eye diseases, patients experience redness and itchiness of the eyes, blurred vision, and mild
26 photophobia, which is sensitivity to light. In addition, those with either condition exhibit
27 discharge from the eyes. In the case of bacterial conjunctivitis, this discharge is thick and
28 yellowish-green, whereas it is colorless and stringy in allergic conjunctivitis. Another symptom
29 of bacterial conjunctivitis is eyelid edema, which is swelling due to the accumulation of excess
30 fluids. Sometimes, patients with this form of conjunctivitis experience severe crusting of the
31 eyes, which causes their eyes to remain shut when they wake up from long sleep. On the other
32 hand, patients with allergic conjunctivitis often suffer from symptoms that affect the nose, such
33 as itching, sneezing, and watery discharge. Excessive tearing can occur as well in the case of
34 allergic conjunctivitis.

35 Bacterial and allergic conjunctivitis are similar with respect to their treatment methods.
36 For the two types of conjunctivitis, patients are prescribed eye drops. In the case of bacterial
37 conjunctivitis, the eye drops contain antibiotics, while the eye drops for allergic conjunctivitis
38 contain antihistamines. Occasionally, corticosteroid eye drops may be used to treat allergic
39 conjunctivitis when the doctor is sure that the patient does not have a bacterial infection, which is
40 made worse by corticosteroids. Another treatment option is using warm water to wash away the
41 discharge and clean out the eyes for both forms of conjunctivitis. After a few days of treatment,
42 the bacterial infection should clear. However, allergic conjunctivitis will return after a course of
43 treatment with eye drops if the person is once again exposed to the substance causing the
44 inflammation.

45 In conclusion, bacterial and allergic conjunctivitis, which are two eye conditions
46 characterized by inflammation of the conjunctiva, can be distinguished by comparing and
47 contrasting their causes, symptoms, and treatment methods. While bacterial conjunctivitis is
48 caused by a bacterium, allergic conjunctivitis results from exposure to allergens in the
49 environment. Symptoms of either disease include eye irritation and discharge from the eyes,
50 which is purulent in the case of bacterial conjunctivitis but clear in allergic conjunctivitis. Both
51 conditions are treated with eye drops and warm water washes.