

Point-by-Point and Block Form Organization

There are two organizational methods for comparison and contrast paragraphs, and they depend on the way the outline is organized.

1) Point-by-Point Organization

When the type of information in one disease / condition **closely** matches the type of information in the second disease / condition, the information should be compared and contrasted point-by-point. For example, matching information can include or contain the following:

A) Differences within a similarity: e.g.

- III. Symptoms
 - A. Similarities
 - 1. **fever**
 - B. Differences
 - 1. disease # 1
 - a. **fever — high**
 - 2. disease # 2
 - a. **fever — mild**

*The symptom of 1 and 2 is similar. **Both** diseases are characterized by fever, **which is high in 1, but low in 2.***

B) Direct opposites: e.g.

- I. Introduction
 - A. Similarities
 - B. Differences
 - 1. disease # 1
 - a. **mostly affects men**
 - 2. disease # 2
 - a. **mostly affects women**

*1 mostly affects men; **however,** 2 mostly occurs in women.*

C) Types: e.g.

- II. Causes
 - A. Similarities
 - B. Differences
 - 1. disease #1
 - a. **virus**
 - 2. disease #2
 - a. **bacterium**

*1 is caused by a virus, **whereas** 2 results from a bacterium.*

D) Some similar information with additional unique characteristics: e.g.

- II. Symptoms
 - A. Similarities
 - 1. loss of memory**
 - B. Differences
 - 1. disease #1
 - a. delusions**
 - 2. disease #2
 - a. tremors**

*These diseases have one similarity. Patients with **either 1 or 2** suffer from loss of memory. **In addition**, those with 1 experience delusions, **but** those with 2 exhibit tremors.*

2) Two Types of Block Organization

A) Block Form

When the type of information under one disease / condition is very different from the information under the second disease / condition: e.g.

- 1) All the information about disease / condition #1 is written.
- 2) A contrast expression is used when switching to disease / condition #2:
 - “Unlike disease #1, disease #2 ...”*
 - “In contrast to disease #1, disease #2 ...”*
 - “Disease #2 differs from disease #1 in that it ...”*
- 3) After the contrast expression, all the information about disease #2 is written.

- II. Causes
 - A. disease # 1
 - 1. cause = environmental pollution
 - 2. common among factory workers — especially in countries with inadequate health and safety standards
 - B. disease # 2
 - 1. occurs in humid weather when fungi reproduce most abundantly
 - 2. transmission by direct contact with soil

*The causes of 1 and 2 are **completely different**. 1 is arises from environmental pollution. This disease is common among factory workers, especially in countries with inadequate health and safety standards. **Unlike 1, 2** occurs in humid weather when fungi reproduce most abundantly, and it is transmitted by direct contact with soil.*

B) Modified Block Organization

Sometimes, a disease / condition can have a few similarities. However, those similarities cannot be contrasted point-by-point because there are no differences within any of the similarities: e.g.

- 1) All the similar information about the two diseases / condition is written.
- 2) All the information about disease / condition # 1 is written.
- 3) A contrast expression is used when switching to disease #2:

“Unlike disease #1, disease #2 ...”

“In contrast to disease #1, disease #2 ...”

“Disease #2 differs from disease #1 in that it ...”

- 4) After the contrast expression, all the information about disease #2 is written.

II. Causes — **bacteria**

A. Similarities

1. **cocci family**

B. Differences

1. disease #1

a. Staphylococcus genus

- i. at least 40 types
- ii. found in soil microbial flora
- ii. most harmless & found in skin and mucous membranes of humans

2. disease # 2

b. Group H Streptococci

- i. can → infections in canines
- ii. direct contact with infected canine’s mouth → infection in humans

1 and 2 are both caused by bacteria. These two diseases are caused by the cocci family of bacteria. 1 results from the Staphylococcus genus of bacteria. At least forty types are identified, and they can be found in soil microbial flora. However, most of them are harmless and are found in the skin and mucous membranes of humans. In contrast to 1, 2 is due to the group H streptococci bacteria. The bacteria can lead to infection in canines, and direct contact with an infected canine’s mouth causes infections in humans.

Writing Practice 1:

Directions: Write a point-by-point paragraph based on the outline.

Comparing and Contrasting Parkinson's Disease and Multiple Sclerosis

- III. Symptoms
 - A. Similarities
 - 1. tremors
 - 2. impaired balance & coordination
 - 3. limb stiffness
 - 4. bladder dysfunction
 - 5. speech problems
 - 6. difficulties w/ concentration & memory
 - B. Differences
 - 1. Parkinson's disease — possible symptoms, e.g.
 - a. fixed mask-like facial expression
 - b. shuffling walk
 - c. stooped posture
 - 2. multiple sclerosis — possible symptoms, e.g.
 - a. pain
 - b. tingling sensations in extremities
 - c. muscle spasms
 - d. sudden paralysis
 - e. vision problems (often), e.g.
 - i. blurred / double vision
 - ii. blindness in one eye
 - iii. rapid, involuntary eye movements

Writing Practice 2:

Directions: Write a point-by-point paragraph based on the outline.

Comparing and Contrasting Crohn’s Disease and Ulcerative Colitis

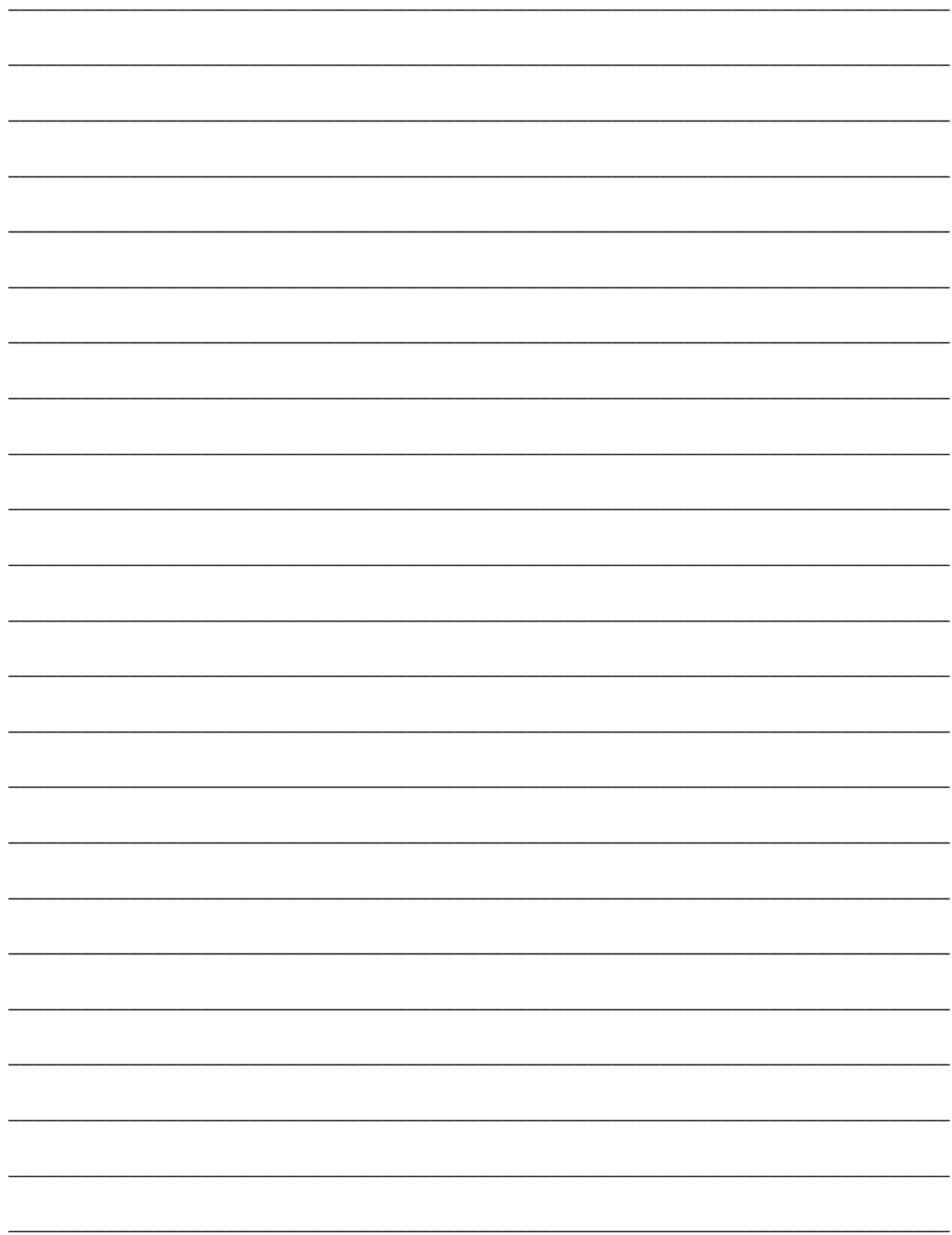
- IV. Treatment
 - A. Similarities
 - 1. patients advised
 - a. use relaxation techniques: reduce stress
 - b. follow special diet — includes
 - i. low-fiber food
 - ii. vitamin supplements
 - 2. medications
 - 3. surgery recommended — if medications not effective
 - B. Differences
 - 1. Crohn’s disease
 - a. medication = prednisone (powerful corticosteroid)—often
 - b. surgery — restorative proctectomy
 - i. newer procedure
 - ii. eliminates need for post-surgical use of ostomy bag
 - 2. ulcerative colitis
 - a. medications — anti-inflammatory drugs (most common)
 - b. surgery — colectomy; remove damaged portions of intestine

Writing Practice 3:

Directions: Write two point-by-point paragraphs based on the outline, one with categories and one without categories.

A Comparison and Contrast of Chickenpox and Measles

- IV. Treatment
 - A. Similarities
 - 1. medications — most common =
 - a. acetaminophen: relieve fever
 - b. acyclovir (antiviral drug)
 - 2. home remedies (usually recommended), e.g.
 - a. rest as much as possible
 - b. drink plenty of fluids
 - B. Differences
 - 1. chickenpox
 - a. medication = famciclovir (maybe)
 - b. home remedies, e.g.
 - i. calamine lotion: reduce itching
 - ii. keep nails short: discourage scratching
 - 2. measles
 - a. medication = ribavirin (antiviral medication) — sometimes
 - b. home remedies — patients advised
 - i. cool baths w/ baking soda
 - ii. ice pack on blisters



Writing Practice 4:

Directions: Write two point-by-point paragraphs based on the outline, one with categories and one without categories.

A Comparison and Contrast of Migraines and Cluster Headaches

III. Treatment

A. Similarities

1. medications
 - a. triptans (maybe): reduce inflammation & constrict blood vessels
 - b. ergot alkaloids (maybe): reduce inflammation & constrict blood vessels
2. preventive measures (usually recommended), e.g.
 - a. avoid stress
 - b. plenty of fluids
 - c. exercise at least 3x/week

B. Differences

1. migraines
 - a. medication — promethazine (maybe) (for nausea & vomiting)
 - b. preventive measures — advised to avoid certain foods, e.g. chocolate & cheese
2. cluster headaches
 - a. medication — antihistamine (maybe): relieve nasal congestion
 - b. preventive measures — relaxation techniques may be useful

