

# Scoring Model for Exposition: Comparison-and-Contrast Essay

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## Score 4

This writer presents a strong comparison-and-contrast essay with a consistent organizational strategy and effective elaboration.

### Strong Points:

1. Attracts reader's interest
2. Clear, consistent organization
3. Elaborates ideas with facts, details, and examples
4. Uses all information for comparison and contrast
5. Excellent command of grammar
6. Good sentence variety
7. Very few mechanical errors

### Meg and I Compared

Madeleine L'Engle's book *A Wrinkle in Time* is a tale of good vs. evil. The main characters, Meg, her brother Charles, Calvin, and Mr. Murry, join forces to fight against an evil force. Here I will compare the differences and similarities between Meg's personality and mine.

In some ways Meg and I are very similar. To start off, we both sometimes feel out of place at school. For example, I sometimes feel awkward because I'm a little shy at school and often think people are judging me. Similarly, Meg feels this emotion not only at school but at home, too. When she is at school, she feels stupid, ugly, and out of place. At home, she also feels bitterly out of place.

Furthermore, Meg and I have a second similarity in common; we both like to do things in our own way. One such way is that in math, I sometimes find another way to do the problems or ask my father to help me. Likewise, Meg is stubborn about the way she carries out things. When she comes home to do her homework, her father teaches her shortcuts to work the problems out. When she goes to school again, the other kids are working the problems differently, and this confuses Meg.

Finally, the third similarity between Meg and me is that we are both impatient. As an illustration, I was very impatient to put up the Christmas tree this year because the tree makes the house smell good. In the same way, Meg also wants to get things done quickly at times. She was impatient to find her father right away, but Charles and Calvin wanted to think things through first. In conclusion, Meg and I have an assortment of similarities in common.

Although Meg and I have many traits in common, there are other traits that are different. To begin with, I am pretty happy most of the time, but Meg gets depressed and feels sorry for herself. As proof, I don't let small things make me sad. When my little brother makes fun of me and calls me ugly, I just laugh him off. However, Meg takes people's words literally and spends a lot of time feeling sorry for herself. When kids at school tease her, she takes what they say to heart and believes that she is stupid. This is bad for her self-esteem.

In addition, the next difference is that we express our emotions differently. For instance, I am quieter and don't throw tantrums. When I get aggravated, I have a good cry and then feel a lot better. Meg, on the other hand, expresses her emotions loudly. She screams and yells, and gets into fights. When someone made fun of her brother, she beat up the kid. She never has bottled up emotions inside of her.

## Exposition: Comparison-and-Contrast Essay—Score 4 (continued)

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The third and final difference between Meg and me is that I sometimes struggle in math, but Meg is very advanced in it. I like math, but sometimes get confused. I know how to work out the equations, but I get frustrated. Unlike me, Meg is really good in math. She helped Calvin with his homework once, and he is several grades ahead of her. Meg can also make up her own shortcuts to figure out the problems. To summarize, Meg and I also have significant differences.

Altogether, *A Wrinkle in Time*, by Madeleine L'Engle is exciting and opens minds to new and different ideas. I have various similarities and differences with one of the book's main characters, Meg.

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## Score 3

This writer presents a well-elaborated comparison-and-contrast essay with clear organization.

### Strong Points:

1. Solid organization
2. Elaborates most ideas with facts, details, or examples
3. Engages audience interest
4. Some transitions
5. Adequate vocabulary and sentence construction

### Problem Points:

1. Mechanical errors and insufficient punctuation
2. Grammatical errors
3. Occasional run-on sentences

## Comazotz and Earth

A *Wrinkle in Time* by Madeliene L'Engle is a very creative, wonderful science fiction story that involves travel across space and time. It is set here on Earth and also on a planet called Camazotz. The story concerns a family called the Murrays who embark on a journey to find their father. To find him they must travel to Camazotz, a distant planet, that is different from Earth yet similar too. The similarities and differences between the two are important to the story.

Camazotz and Earth have many similarities. To begin with, the people on these planets both feel emotions. For instance when Charles picks up a ball belonging to a child from Camazotz, the motherly figure is surprised and afraid and slams the door on him. Just as the mothers on Camazotz worry the fathers on earth worry about their children. When children go out to a party, dance, or the movies the parents worry about them. Some kids have gotten kidnapped. Therefore parents fear for their children's safety.

Another similarity between people on Camazotz and Earth are the employment opportunities. One certain job on Camazotz is to be a scientist. In the CENTRAL Central Intelligence Center, the people perform experiments, mostly on living creatures including humans. Similarly people on Earth also have the opportunity to be scientists. People do perform experiments on living creatures such as mice, rats, guinea pigs. Furthermore a third similarity between Camazotz and Earth is the vegetation. For example on Camazotz they have trees, grass, shrubs, and flowers, which would make Camazotz not as gloomy. In the same way Earth has trees, shrubs, and flowers, which make Earth less dark and gloomy. In conclusion the planets of Camazotz and Earth have many similarities.

Camazotz and Earth have quite a few similarities. But on the other hand they have many differences. To begin with on Camazotz everything is done in unison, Earth is not this way. For instance when the children were playing outside the balls were bounced and caught at the same time. The jump ropes hit the ground at the same time and doors opened in unison. Unlike Camazotz people on Earth don't do everything in unison, while one child is playing basketball another child could be playing hopscotch. There is not a rhythm to everything on Earth as there is on Camazotz.

## Exposition: Comparison-and-Contrast Essay—Score 3 (continued)

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Another difference between Camazotz and Earth is The Black Thing. Camazotz is completely controlled by The Black Thing that makes them do everything in unison, the people on Camazotz don't make decisions for themselves. They are convinced that being the same as everybody is safer and happier. However Earth is not controlled by The Black Thing. People on Earth make their own decisions and do what they want whenever they want.

Finally there is another difference between Camazotz and Earth which is in their technology levels. For example Camazotz has very advanced technology. Most people on Camazotz can rearrange the atoms in a wall to walk through it. They also have transparent columns that are as solid as a regular wall but these can be walked through with a certain power. This power requires advanced technology. Earth doesn't have technology that is as advanced as Camazotz. In summary Camazotz and Earth have many similarities yet many differences too.

In conclusion *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle is an exciting and imaginative book and part of its excitement comes from way the characters travel to another world that is both strangely similar to our own planet and, at the same time wildly different.

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## Score 2

While this writer has organized the ideas for this comparison-and-contrast essay, its weaknesses outweigh its strengths.

### Strong Points:

1. Provides reasons for comparison-and-contrast analysis
2. Fair organization
3. Moderate elaboration

### Problem Points:

1. Repetitive sentence structure
2. Lack of strong vocabulary
3. Digression from main points
4. Awkward sentence construction
5. Numerous mechanical errors

## Me Compared to Meg

*A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle is a book about a girl named Meg and how she goes on a long and adventurous journey to find her father who disappeared. This wonderful book by a great author. She leaves people hanging there for it's hard to put the book down.

Meg and me both have similar and different personalities. Meg and me have similar personalities. Meg and me are both good in mathematics. Meg is so good at math that she helped Calvin with his high school work and she is only in the 7th grade. Likewise I do well on most math tests and I help others. Both of us are bitterly impatient. Meg wanted to keep moving to find her father, but the others were taking their sweet time. I am impatient when I go to different places. When I go to the grocery store with my mother, I bug her until we leave. I always tell her you got 10 minutes left or 30 minutes left. Both of us are bitterly suspicious of strangers. Meg was suspicious of Mrs. Whatsit when she first saw her. I am suspicious of people who sell things door-to-door. It's almost like when I answer the door, I think there's going to push me and rob me clean. It's easily recognizable that both of us have similar personalities.

Meg and I have similar personalities but also have differences. Meg is very stubborn, but I am not. Meg is stubborn and she always has to be right. She also doesn't take anything from anybody. When the boy was making fun of her brothers she beat up the boy. I am not stubborn because I don't care if things are perfect. Meg has low self-esteem. I have high self-esteem due to certain reasons. Meg has low self-esteem when kids at her school make fun of her. I have high self-esteem because I don't get picked on by kids. Meg shows emotions, but I don't like to show mine in front of other people. Meg cried about being picked on at school. I don't like to show my emotions in front of people. Thinking about things and possibly crying about them. Meg and me have different personalities.

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## Score 1

This writer's efforts to write a comparison-and-contrast essay are unsuccessful.

### Problem Points

1. No reason provided for comparison-and-contrast analysis
2. Lack of organizational strategy
3. Inconsistent focus
4. Lack of facts or examples to support comparison and contrast
5. Uneven and confusing use of language
6. Many mechanical errors

### Meg and Marty

The story *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle about the struggles of the Murry family and how they go on a frantic search for Meg's father and find a way to save earth from an evil thing. This heart warming book that will touch your hearts and you won't ever be able to put it down.

Meg and my friend Marty is very stubborn when it comes to getting what they want. Marty is very stubborn when she doesn't get her way because her mom spoils her. If Marty starts to cry her mom will get her anything she wants. When I go to the store with Marty and her mom said she would get us a little something, Marty comes back with the whole basket full of things and her mom usually ends up buying me nothing and she buys her everything. Marty doesn't have no friends at school, and if Marty tries to be friendly, she always ends up being mean because she can't control her feelings like Meg has no friends because she doesn't trust anybody she thinks that they are probably going to make fun of her so therefore Meg can't trust anyone.

Marty and Meg also have many differences. The first difference they have is that Marty is a style freak and always into style even though she never talks about it her real personality is very stylish she is into the new fashions in the world she wants to be a super model and a clothes designer. She is always wanting to go shopping and buy some clothes. Meg doesn't though she never really got to change her clothes. In conclusion, this book by Madeleine L'Engle shows how they all go on a frantic search for Meg's and Charles' father.