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Comparative Literature Review Essays

A **comparative review** may, e.g., require you to examine two schools of thought, two issues, or the positions taken by two persons. You may create a hierarchy of issues and sub-issues to compare and contrast, as suggested by the following general plan.

This model lists **3 options** for structuring the **body** of the review. In all cases, you are expected to deal with the similarities (**compare**) and then with the differences (**contrast**): **Introduction, Body, & Conclusion**

Introduction: Opening Paragraph(s)	Introduce your overall topic		
	Establish the significance of the topic/subject		
Body (3 sample Options)	Identify the main problem/issue/theory you'll focus on		
	Briefly identify the positions/authors you'll review, and where they differ or complement each other		
	Examine theory/view A	Examine theory/view B	Compare and contrast A & B
	Similarities of A & B	Differences of A & B	Discussion of central issues
	Issue 1: Discuss A & B	Issue 2: Discuss A & B	Issue 3: Discuss A & B
	Conclusion that ranks one theory/position over the other		
Conclusion (Options)	Conclusion that summarises the respective merits of each theory or position		

Literature Review **Example 3** offers an excellent example of a comparative review [[Language and gender](#)]. This was written by Alastair Pennycook for his undergraduate students as a [model of \(among other things\) of how to structure a review of the literature](#) - for an example of the above structure.

Literature Review

[What is a Literature Review](#)

[Writing a Literature Review](#)

Organization:

- [Literature Review Essays](#)

Comparative Literature Review Essays

Argumentation:

- [Identifying a writer's stance and perspective](#)

Language:

- [Precision in describing positions](#)

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