

## COMPARE AND CONTRAST PARAGRAPH SAMPLE

Also is expository in nature: it explains.

Compare/Contrast sets two similar yet different concepts together to analyze their similarities and differences.

The key word is ANALYZE. To analyze something means to look closely at its components (parts) and see how it works when put together.



**The Prompt:** We all love getting presents at Christmas and for birthdays and graduation. But what kind of gift is better? Compare and contrast aspects of receiving money or wrapped gifts, and tell which you prefer and why.

**Analyzed Prompt:** We all love getting presents at Christmas and for birthdays and graduation. But what kind of gift is better? **Compare** and **contrast** aspects of receiving money or wrapped gifts, and **tell which you prefer** and **(tell) why**.

**Answered Prompt:** I prefer receiving monetary gifts; I can use them anywhere and they don't cost money to wrap or send via mail.

For brainstorming the comparisons and contrasts, you will use a **VENN DIAGRAM**. (See next page.)

This is a Venn Diagram that was created as a demo project online with [online.visual-paradigm.com](http://online.visual-paradigm.com)'s visual software.



## Compare and Contrast: Types of Gifts

You can draw your own Venn diagrams just as easily.

A Little History:

**John Venn** popularized the use of this kind of diagram, used by philosophers and mathematicians since at least the 13th century, in an 1880 paper entitled "On the Diagrammatic and Mechanical Representation of Propositions and Reasonings." It was used to categorize and visually represent the properties of logical propositions.

**OS:** Gifts come in all shapes and sizes, but primarily they can be monetary or physical, wrapped gifts. I prefer monetary gifts.

**D#1:** Similarities

EX: both are "new"; both are thoughtful as gifts

**D#2:** Traditional, wrapped gifts have an aura of mystery since they need to be unwrapped.

Ex: Getting a wrapped gift also feels like a celebration and makes the day seem special since the person obviously cared enough to go shopping for you. But wrapped gifts also put you in an awkward position if it is a gift you don't want or need.

**D#3:** Monetary gifts, however, are universally appreciated since you can spend them any way you like.

Ex: They come as cash, which may seem cold but can be spent anywhere, or gift cards which must be spent at a specific store. Bank card giftcards can be spent anywhere like cash, and are easy and cheap to mail and don't require costly gift wrap.

**CS:** While both kinds of gifts show thoughtfulness on the part of the giver, I prefer the monetary gifts for the no-fail quality and because they are easier and cheaper for the giver to give, spending more time and money on the things that matter most: celebrating good times together. But remember, both kinds of gift deserve that grateful thank you note!

Note: Sometimes after having brainstormed a web or Venn Diagram, the supporting details are already there for you to plug into your outline (e.g., the "Ex:" part), as you see in this outline.

(Paragraph on next page)

**The Draft** (A slightly shorter version is on the next page.)

Gifts come in all shapes and sizes; but primarily they can be monetary or physical, wrapped gifts. I prefer monetary gifts as they are more widely useable. Both monetary and physical gifts (wrapped or given in some other way) are both items you did not previously have. You have been "gifted" with something new. Givers of both kinds of gifts have shown their thoughtfulness by offering you something they thought you could use and enjoy, so we can be grateful for both kinds of gifts. Traditional, wrapped gifts do have an aura of mystery since they need to be unwrapped. Getting a wrapped gift also feels more like a celebration and makes the day seem special since the person spent more effort going shopping for you. But wrapped gifts also put you in an awkward position if it is a gift you don't want or need. Monetary gifts, however, are universally appreciated since you can spend them any way you like. They come as cash, which may seem cold but can be spent anywhere, or gift cards which must be spent at a specific store. Bank card gift cards, however, can be spent anywhere like cash, are easy and cheap to mail, and don't require costly gift wrap. While both kinds of gifts show thoughtfulness on the part of the giver, I prefer the monetary gifts for the no-fail quality and because they are easier and cheaper for the giver to give, spending more time and money on the things that matter most: celebrating good times together. But remember, both kinds of gift deserve that grateful thank you note!

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