

UNIT 9

THE COMPARATIVE ESSAY

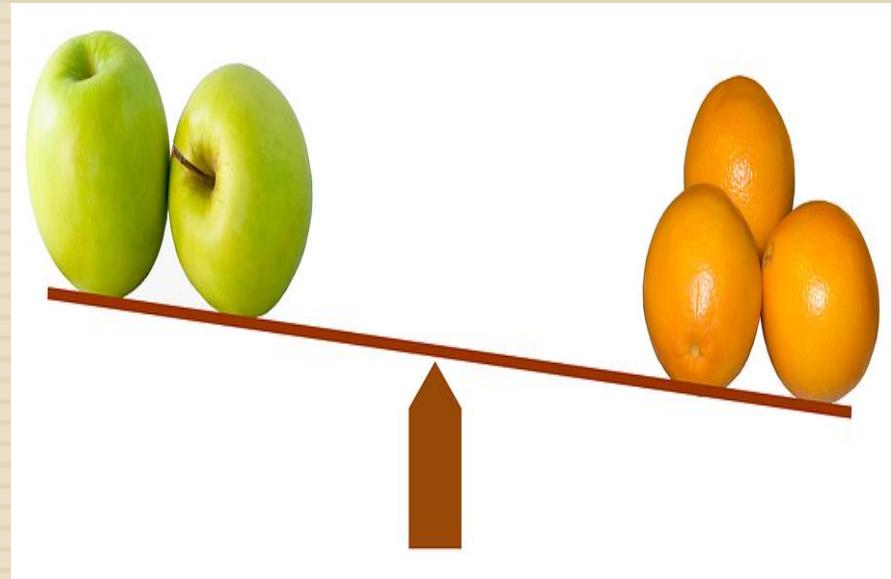
Academic Writing

Agenda

- Genre: What is a comparative essay?
 - ▣ Block Method
- Evaluating a Model Essay
- The Thesis Statement
- The Conclusion
- Brainstorming & Organizing
 - Using a Venn Diagram
- Homework: Drafting a Comparative Essay

What is a comparative essay?

In a comparative essay the writer compares and contrasts two different topics.

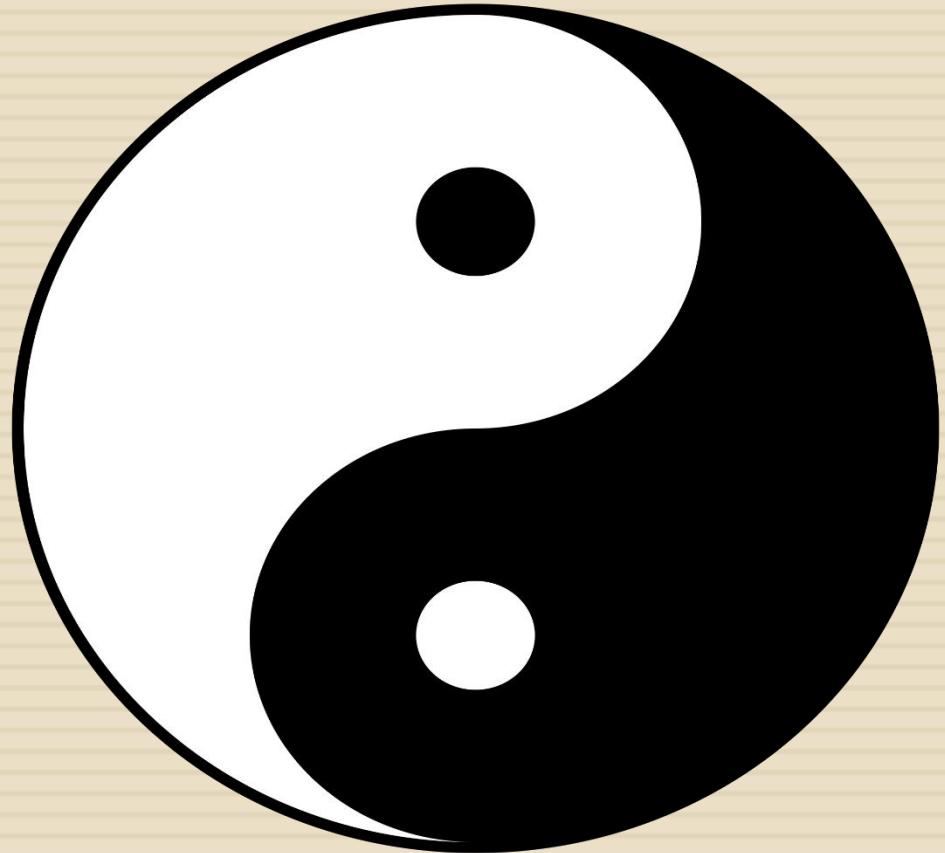


What do you think it means to compare two things?

What does it mean to contrast two things?

The Comparative Essay

When we compare two things, we talk about how they are **ALIKE**.



When we contrast them, we tell how they are **DIFFERENT**.
Let's look at an example.

What is the author comparing?

What do you notice about this essay that is different from an opinion essay?

How many paragraphs are there?

What is the second paragraph about?

What is the third paragraph about?

What similarities do you see between this essay and other essays we've studied?

Aristotle said, "Education is the best provision for life's journey." This journey begins for young people in primary school and continues through secondary school (middle and high school). It is important to understand the similarities and differences between students' primary and secondary school experience. While there are some similarities, they are mostly very different.

Primary school and secondary school share some similarities. In both settings students are required to take lessons with several different teachers and complete homework in each subject. Another similarity is that students are tested to determine their rank in class. Finally, both settings allow us to see our friends on a daily basis.

Despite the similarities between primary and secondary school, they have some very important differences. Primary school students have much shorter school days. They attend school for about seven hours, whereas secondary school students are usually in school for eleven hours. Primary school students have more time for fun activities, while secondary school students must solely focus on their studies. Finally, secondary school students must wear a uniform to class. However, primary school students can wear anything that feels comfortable.

In conclusion, there are some similarities and differences between primary and secondary school. Similarities include, lessons and homework, testing, and time with friends. Despite these similarities, primary school and secondary school are more different than they are similar. The differences are related to time in school, focus on academics, and dress code. Understanding the similarities and differences between these topics will help students have a more enjoyable and productive school experience.

Comparative Essay

Similarities

- The Hook
- The Road Map
- The Thesis
- Signal the end of the essay

- Restate thesis
- Summarize

□ ~~Concluding sentence~~

The introduction and conclusion have ~~similar~~ features to our other essays.

Differences

- The Body paragraphs are structured differently.
- There may be fewer (or more) paragraphs in the body.

The body paragraphs are structured differently.
Our introduction should also introduce the two things being compared

The Comparative Essay - Your Thesis

What is the author's
thesis statement?

Where is it placed?

What do you think
the body paragraphs
will show?

Aristotle said, "Education is the best provision for life's journey." This journey begins for young people in primary school and continues through secondary school (middle and high school). It is important to understand the similarities and differences between students' primary and secondary school experience. While there are some similarities, primary and secondary school are mostly very different.

EXAMPLE THESIS FORMAT:

While there are some (similarities/differences), they are mostly (similar/different).

The Comparative Essay - The Conclusion

What should a good conclusion include?

How is this a good conclusion?

In conclusion, there are some similarities and differences between primary and secondary school. Similarities include, lessons and homework, testing, and time with friends. Despite these similarities, primary school and secondary school are more different than they are similar. The differences are related to time in school, focus on academics, and dress code. Understanding the similarities and differences between these topics will help students have a more enjoyable and productive school experience.

Now, let's look at the answers...

The Comparative Essay - The Conclusion

A good conclusion should:

Signal the end of the essay.

Summarize main points.

Restate the thesis.

End with a concluding thought.

In conclusion, there are some similarities and differences between primary and secondary school. Similarities include, lessons and homework, testing, and time with friends.

Despite these similarities, primary school and secondary school are more different than they are similar. The differences are related to time in school, focus on academics, and dress code.

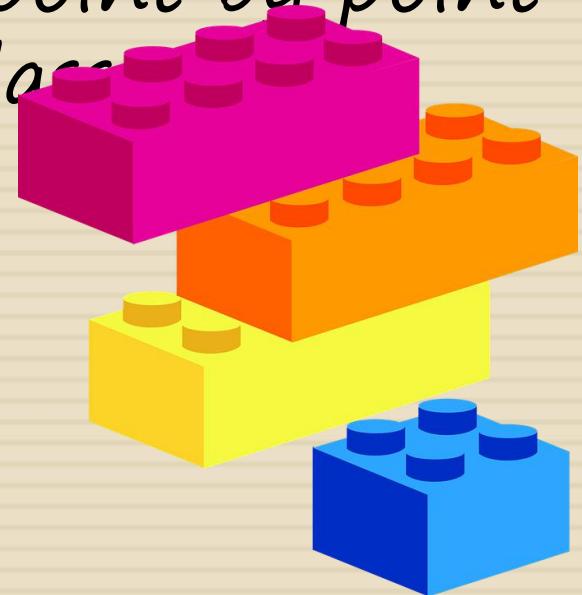
Understanding the similarities and differences between these topics will help students have a more enjoyable and productive school experience.

Comparative Essay

Authors generally take two different approaches to comparative essays: POINT-BY-POINT or BLOCK METHOD.

Our example essay uses the block method. We'll learn more about the point by point method in future classes.

Let's look at the structure of the block method.



Block Method Format

The block method allows the author to clearly state the similarities and then clearly state the differences.

For our first essay, we will be using the block method.

Introduction

BODY
PARAGRAPH 1:
Similarities

BODY
PARAGRAPH 2:
Differences

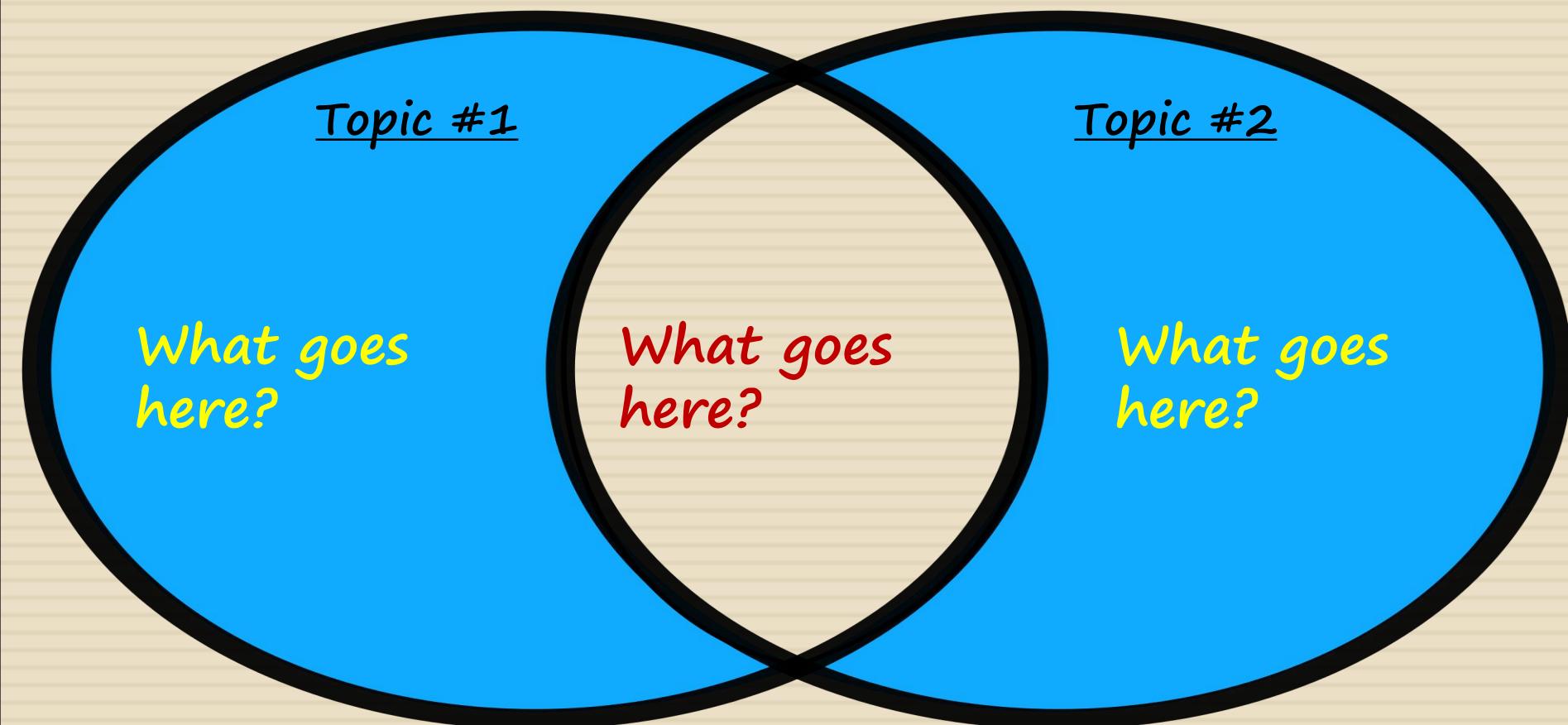
Conclusion

Brainstorming

Now we're going to brainstorm ideas
for our own comparative essay...

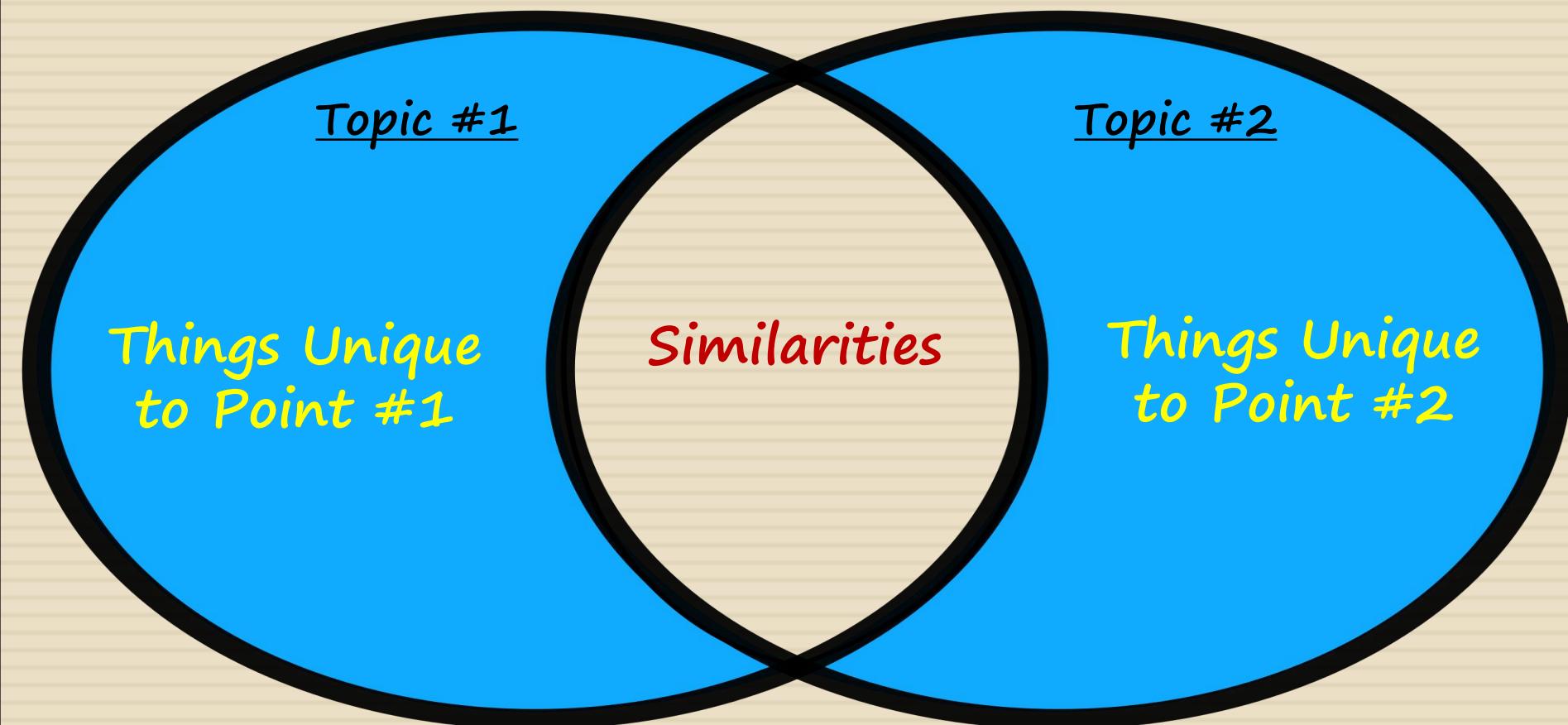
Brainstorming a Comparative Essay

Authors often use a Venn diagram to brainstorm comparative essays.



Brainstorming a Comparative Essay

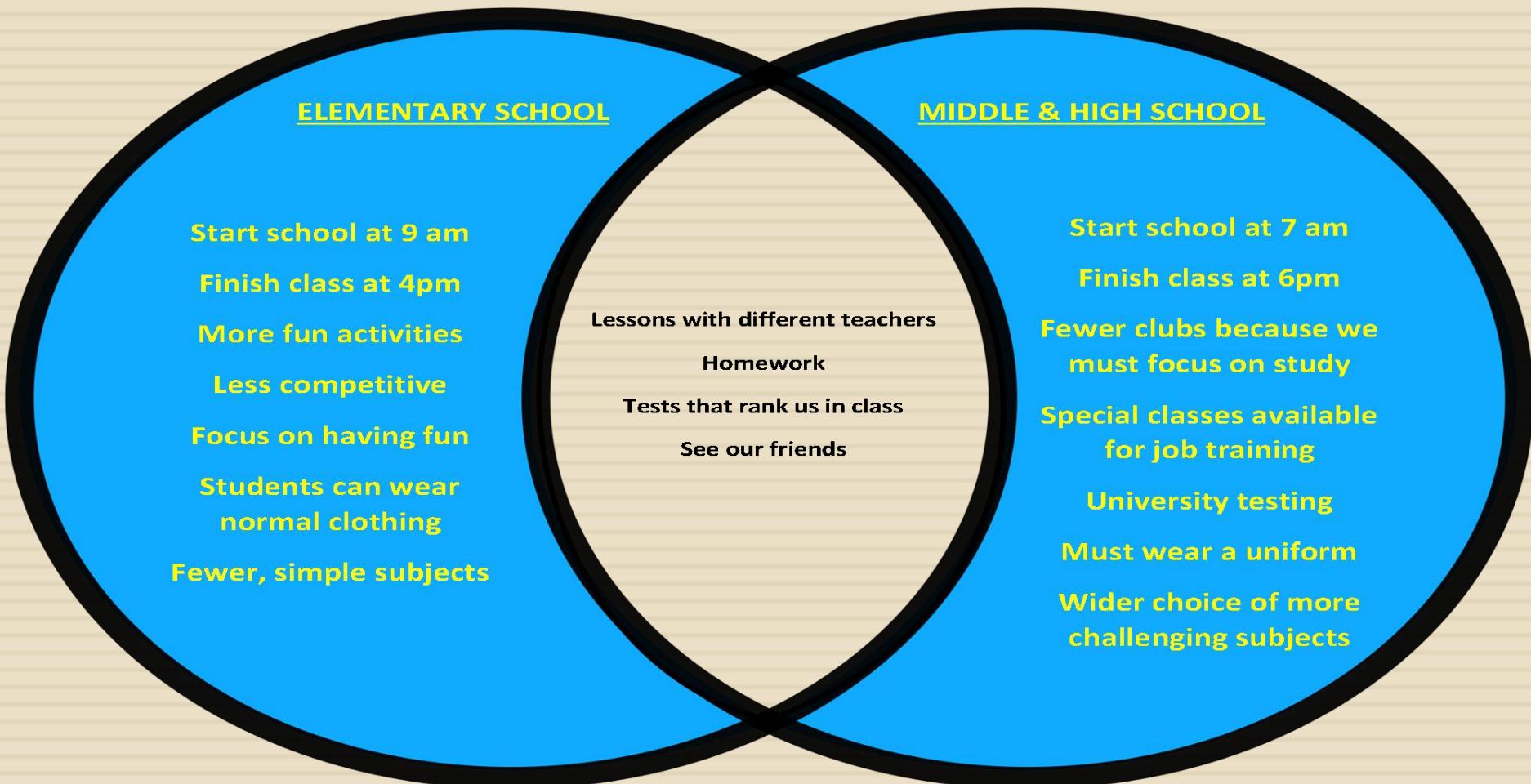
Authors often use a Venn diagram to brainstorm comparative essays.



Let's look at how the author brainstormed the model essay...

Did author include all his ideas in his essay?

REMEMBER: There are no bad ideas when we are brainstorming!



Brainstorming



Possible Topics

*Christmas & New Year's
Holidays*

Spring & Fall

Eating at Home & Eating at

*Which topic do you want to write about?
Share your choice with the class.*



Brainstorming

Help your classmates brainstorm ideas for the topic each student has chosen. We'll add our ideas to the Venn diagram. Then, we'll organize our ideas.

Topic #1

Topic #2

Organizing

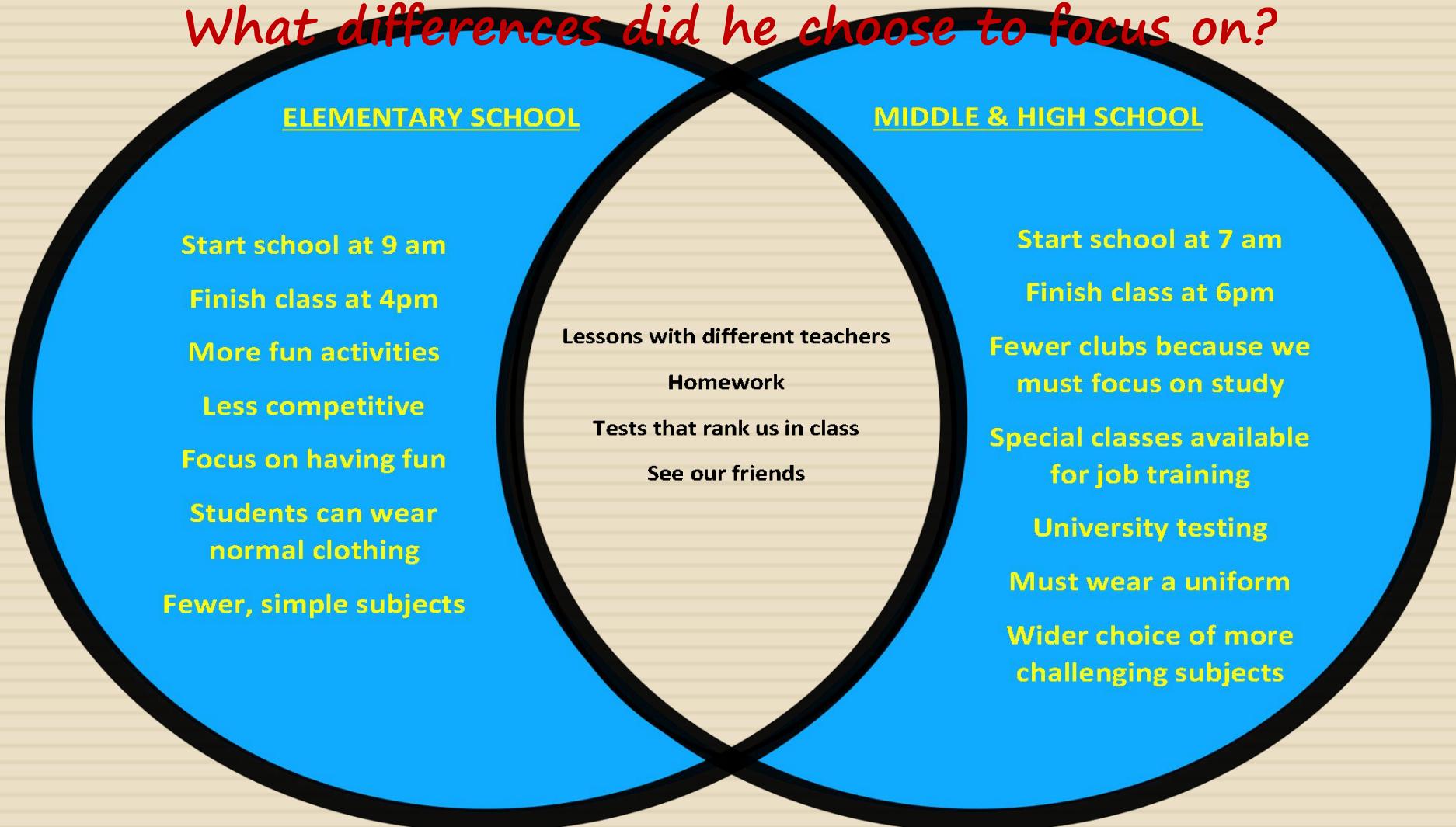
Look at your completed Venn diagram.
Are there more similarities or differences?
This should help you form your THESIS
STATEMENT.

We can't include ALL the information from our Venn diagram, so let's focus on three similarities that are most important, and three differences that are most important. *Draw a circle around those ideas.*

Look at the example from our model

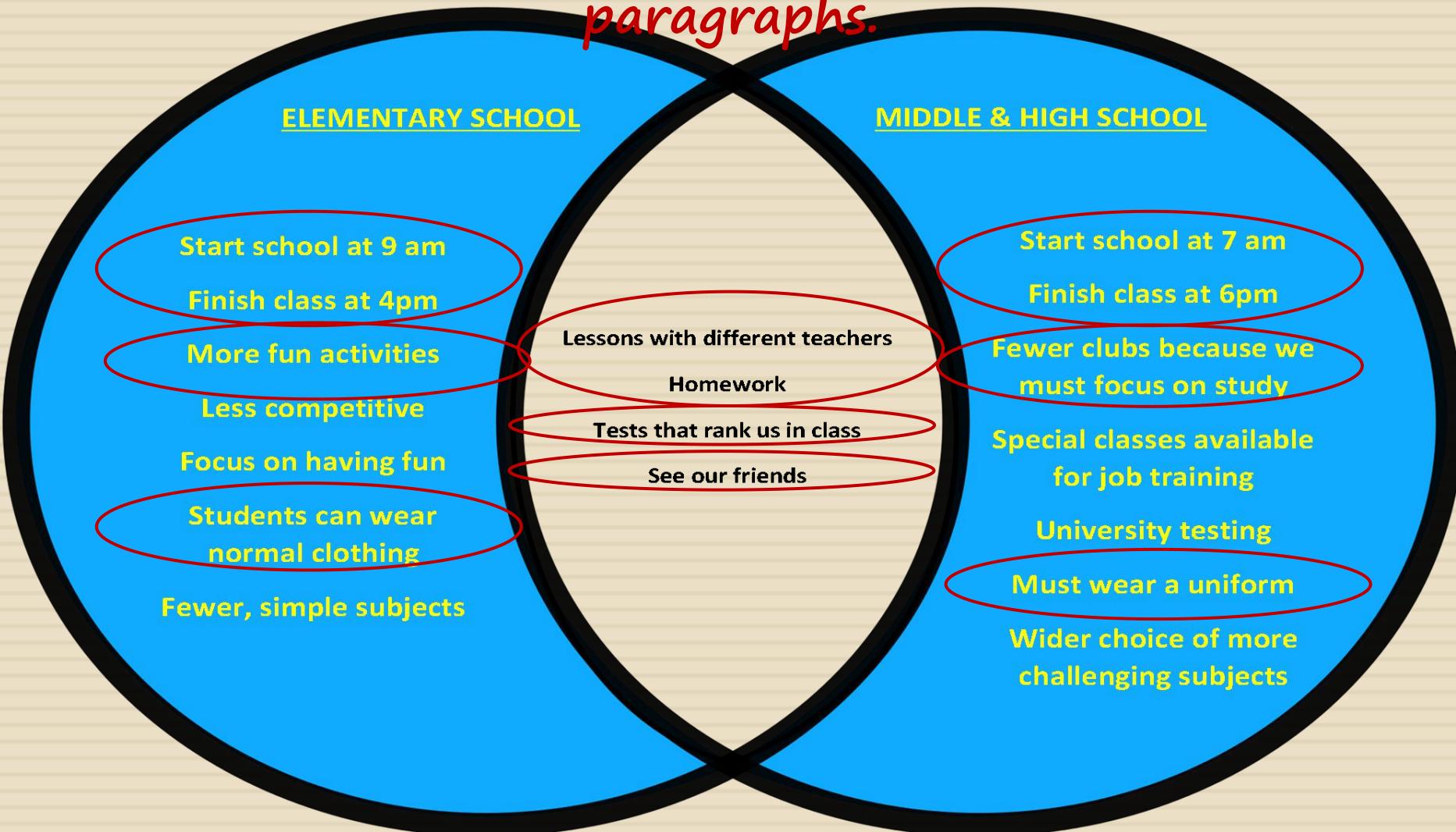
Are there more similarities or more differences?
What was the author's thesis?
Did the author include all the information from the diagram?

What differences did he choose to focus on?



Thesis: While there are some similarities, primary and secondary school are mostly very different.

The ideas that are circled are going to make up the body paragraphs.



Drafting

Now you're ready to draft your comparative essay.

Use the template on the next slide to help you...



Drafting

INTRODUCTION:

BODY-1:

BODY-2:

CONCLUSION:

Introduction

BODY
PARAGRAPH 1:
Similarities

BODY
PARAGRAPH 2:
Differences

Conclusion

HOMEWORK

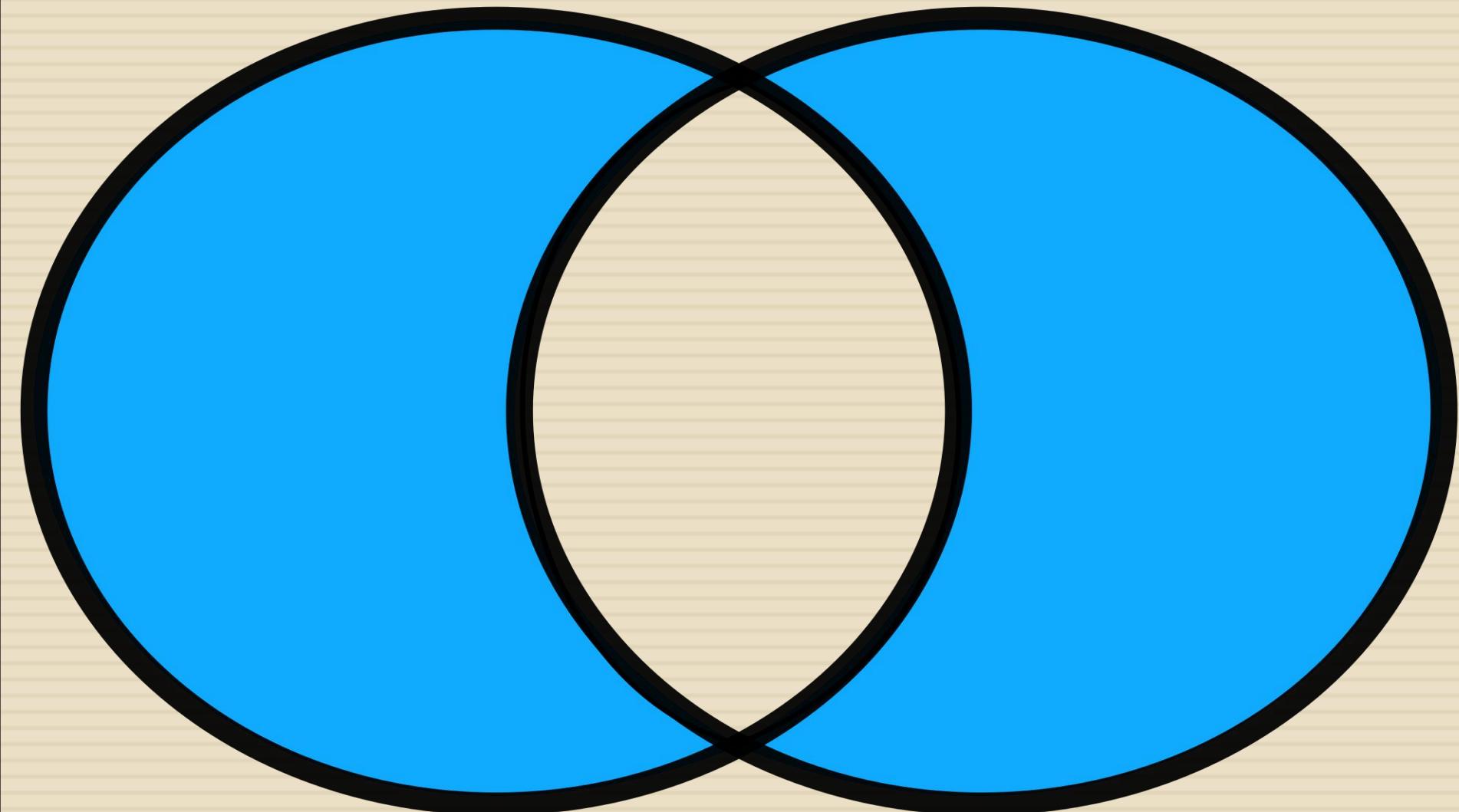


Draft a comparative essay on
the topic you chose.

Send it to your teacher
BEFORE the next class.

We will work together in our
next class to revise our
writing...

Graphic Organizer- Venn Diagram



Graphic Organizer- Drafting

INTRODUCTION:

BODY-1:

BODY-2:

CONCLUSION:



thank
you

GREAT JOB!

THANK YOU...