

Topic Sentences

- 1) Use a general topic sentence with the degree of similarity or difference.

Words Indicating Degree:

Degree of Similarity:	similar / the same / both
	very similar / many similarities
	quite similar
	somewhat similar / several similarities / some similarities
	a few similarities
	some similarities and some differences
Degree of Difference:	differ (<i>used as a verb</i>)
	different / completely different
	very different / many differences
	quite different
	somewhat different / some differences / several differences
	a few differences
	some similarities and some differences

General Topic Sentences:

(Refer to "Topic Sentences" in "Writing a Definition Essay" for more options.)

Causes	1 and 2 have (<i>degree</i>) causes.
	1 and 2 are caused by (<i>degree</i>) factors.
	(<i>Degree</i>) factors cause 1 and 2.
Symptoms	1 and 2 are characterized by (<i>degree</i>) symptoms.
	(<i>Degree</i>) symptoms characterize 1 and 2.
Diagnosis / Treatment	(<i>Degree</i>) methods are used to diagnose / treat 1 and 2.
	1 and 2 are diagnosed / treated with (<i>degree</i>) methods.

Sample Topic Sentences for Comparison and Contrast Body Paragraphs

1)	The	<i>(topic of paragraph)</i>	of 1 and 2 are	<i>(degree).</i>
2)	1 and 2 have	<i>(degree)</i>	with regard to their	<i>(topic of paragraph).</i>
3)	With regard to their	<i>(topic of paragraph),</i>	1 and 2 have	some similarities and some differences.
4)	1 and 2 are	<i>(degree)</i>	in terms of their	<i>(topic of paragraph).</i>
5)	In terms of their	<i>(topic of paragraph),</i>	1 and 2 are	<i>(degree).</i>
6)	1 and 2	differ	with respect to their	<i>(topic of paragraph).</i>
7)	Although 1 and 2 share	<i>(degree)</i>	topic of paragraph,	they differ in others.
8)	While 1 and 2 have some	similarities with respect to their	<i>(topic of paragraph),</i>	they have some differences.

Typhoid and Cholera

III. Symptoms

A. Similarities

1. fatigue
2. loss of appetite

B. Differences

1. typhoid
 - a. nausea & vomiting
 - b. headache
2. cholera
 - a. diarrhea
 - b. abdominal cramps

Topic Sentence:

Although typhoid and cholera share a few symptoms, they differ in others.

2) **When there is extra information on the same line as the main heading, include it in the topic sentence.**

Chickenpox and Measles

- II. Cause — virus
 - A. Chickenpox — varicella-zoster virus
 - 1. ...
 - 2. ...
 - B. Measles — paramyxovirus
 - 1. ...
 - 2. ...

Topic Sentence 1: (extra information)

The cause of chickenpox and measles is a virus.

Topic Sentence 2: (extra information, optional degree)

*Chickenpox and measles are **similar** in that they are **both** caused by a virus.
Chickenpox and measles are **both** caused by a virus.*

Topic Sentence 3: (extra information, optional categories)

*Chickenpox is caused by **the varicella-zoster virus**, whereas measles results from **the paramyxovirus**.*

Cirrhosis of the Liver and Acute Liver Failure

IV. Treatment — reduce level of waste products in bloodstream

- A. Similarities
 - 1. ...
 - 2. ...
 - 3. ...
- B. Differences
 - 1. cirrhosis of the liver
 - a. ...
 - b. ...
 - 2. acute liver failure
 - a. ...
 - b. ...

Topic Sentence 1: (extra information)

*The treatment for cirrhosis of the liver and acute liver failure **reduces the level of toxic waste products in the bloodstream**.*

Topic Sentence 2: (extra information, optional degree)

*Cirrhosis of the liver and acute liver failure are **both** treated by **reducing the level of toxic waste products in the blood stream**.*