

# Introductory Paragraph

## Topic Sentence:

- Names the items to be compared

## Detail Sentences:

- Define the items
- Provide background information about the items

## Thesis Statement:

- Names the items
- Names the dimensions for comparison (the ways the items will be compared)
- Shares the main message of the theme

# **Example**

## **Introductory Paragraph**

**Humans have a relative called the gorilla. Whether they can be called “close relatives” is an interesting question. Gorillas look so much like humans that explorers thought that gorillas were a tribe of hairy people. They were given their name “gorilla” by an explorer because the word “gorilla” means “hairy people” (“Gorilla” 2). Like chimpanzees and orangutans, gorillas are anthropoids which means “resembling man” (“Webster’s” 38). Their physical appearance, their social life, and their daily activities make gorillas so similar to humans that they might be considered close relatives.**

# Detail Paragraph

## Topic/Transition Sentence:

- Includes a transition
- Names the items to be compared
- Names the dimension for comparison (one way they are being compared)

## Lead-off Detail Sentences:

- Introduce one of the similarities

## Follow-up Detail Sentences:

- Provide details about the similarity
- Cover both items

## **Detail Sentences in Detail Paragraphs**

**Topic/Transition Sentence:** One way soccer and football are alike relates to the place both sports are played.

**Lead-off Sentence:** Most importantly, both sports involve the use of a large grassy field.

**Follow-up Sentence 1:** The fields for both sports are about 100 yards long.

**Follow-up Sentence 2:** The soccer field is a bit longer and wider than a football field.

**OR**

**Follow-up Sentence 1:** Although both fields are about 100 yards long, a soccer field is a little longer and wider than a football field.

**OR**

**Follow-up Sentence 1:** The fields for both sports are huge; soccer fields are sometimes a bit longer (110-120 yards) than football fields (usually 100 yards).

# Example Paragraph A

**Topic/Transition Sentence:** Has a transition and names the topic and subtopic

**L1:** Statement about the first similarity (or difference) related to the subtopic.

**F1:** How Item #1 shows that.

**F2:** How Item #2 shows that.

**L2:** Statement about the second similarity (or difference) related to the subtopic.

**F1:** How Item #1 shows that.

**F2:** How Item #2 shows that.

**L3:** Statement about the third similarity (or difference) related to the subtopic.

**F1:** How Item #1 shows that.

**F2:** How Item #2 shows that.

# Example Paragraph B

**Topic/Transition Sentence: Has a transition and names the topic and subtopic (dimension)**

**L1: Statement about the first area of similarities (or differences) related to Item #1 and the subtopic.**

**F1: Follow-up statement about that first area related to Item #1.**

**L2: Statement about the second area of similarities (or differences) related to Item #1 and the subtopic.**

**F1: Follow-up statement about that second area related to Item #1.**

**L3: Statement about the third area of similarities (or differences) related to Item #1 and the subtopic.**

**F1: Follow-up statement about that third area related to Item #1.**

**L4: Statement about the first area of similarities (or differences) related to Item #2 and the subtopic.**

**F1: Follow-up statement about that first area related to Item #2.**

**L5: Statement about the second area of similarities (or differences) related to Item #2 and the subtopic.**

**F1: Follow-up statement about that second area related to Item #2.**

**L6: Statement about the third area of similarities (or differences) related to Item #2 and the subtopic.**

**F1: Follow-up statement about that third area related to Item #2.**

# Example Detail

## Paragraph A

As mentioned, gorillas are similar to humans physically. Both gorillas and humans can stand upright and walk on two feet. Gorillas mainly do this when they are carrying something or using a tool. Humans walk on two feet whenever they move around. Additionally, gorillas are about the same height as humans when standing. The average height of male gorillas is five feet six inches (“All about gorillas” 2); however, male gorillas have been known to stand as much as six feet four inches tall (“What is...” 1). In the U.S., the average height of a human male is five feet ten inches (“Template...” 2). Also, gorillas and humans have fingerprints that are unique. All gorillas and humans can be identified solely by their fingerprints. Interestingly, gorilla DNA is very similar to human DNA. From ninety-five to ninety-nine percent of their DNA matches human DNA (“DNA” 1).

# Example Detail Paragraph B

Probably because of their close relationships with their black nannies, both Scout and Lily are curious about the black culture. In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Calpurnia takes Scout and Jem to church with her, which is quite a revelation to them. Scout is curious about the absence of hymnals and how the offering is collected. Later, Scout wants to visit Calpurnia's home, but her aunt will not allow her to go. She is very disappointed. During the trial, Scout sits in the courtroom balcony with the black people. She accepts them, and they accept her. Similarly, in *The Secret Life of Bees*, Lily is curious about Rosaleen's life. She visits Rosaleen's home and notices many details about Rosaleen's daily activities. After running away, she moves in with a black family of sisters, and she fully participates in their business and home life. She even participates in their invented religious activities. She meets, becomes friends with, and falls for a black teen-aged boy. They become inseparable.



# Concluding Paragraph

## Concluding Transition Sentence:

- Includes a transition
- Names the items that have been compared
- Mentions comparing in some way

## Detail Sentences:

- Cover a Concluding Option  
OR
- Summarize the dimensions

## Clincher Sentence:

- Names the items
- Mentions that they are similar
- Provides the main message of the theme

# Example

## Concluding Paragraph

**In sum, gorillas are similar to humans with regard to how they look, how they relate to each other, and the activities in which they engage. Mainly because they can walk upright and are similar in size to humans, they have an overall similar appearance, and their DNA is almost a complete match to human DNA. Like humans, gorillas relate to each other within families and have definite roles in these families. Also similar to humans, gorillas engage in daily activities including obtaining food, communicating with each other, and manipulating tools. All of these traits make them close relatives to humans in the animal family, but probably not kissing cousins!**

# Introductory Paragraph

## Topic Sentence:

- Names the items to be contrasted

## Detail Sentences:

- Define the items
- Provide background information about the items
- Can include an Introductory Option

## Thesis Statement:

- Names the items
- Names the dimensions of the contrast (the ways the items will be contrasted)
- Shares the main message of the theme

# **Example**

## **Introductory Paragraph**

### **Our Distant Cousins**

**Humans have a distant relative called the gorilla. Indeed, gorillas look so much like humans that explorers thought that gorillas were a tribe of hairy because the word “gorilla” means “tribe of hairy people” (“Gorilla” 2). Like chimpanzees and orangutans, gorillas are anthropoids which means “resembling humans” (“Webster’s” 38). Nevertheless, people. They were given their name “gorilla” by an explorer gorillas are very different from humans because of some aspects of their appearance, their intelligence, and their eating habits.**

# Detail Paragraphs

## Topic/Transition Sentence:

- Includes a transition
- Names the items to be contrasted
- Names the dimension for the contrast (the way the items are being contrasted)

## Lead-off Detail Sentences:

- Introduces one of the differences

## Follow-up Detail Sentences:

- Provide details about the difference
- Cover both items

# Detail Sentences in Detail Paragraphs

**Topic Transition Sentence:** One way skiing and football are different relates to the place that people engage in the sports.

**Lead-off Sentence:** Most importantly, the angles associated with the locations are physically distinct.

**Follow-up Sentence 1:** Skiing takes place on a steep mountainside.

**Follow-up Sentence 2:** Football takes place on a very flat field.

OR

**Follow-up Sentence 1:** While skiing takes place on a steep mountainside, football takes place on a very flat field.

OR

**Follow-up Sentence 1:** Skiing takes place on a steep mountainside; football takes place on a very flat field.

# Example

## Detail Paragraph

With regard to their appearance, gorillas would never truly be mistaken for humans because they look so different. First, both male and female gorillas are typically heavier than their human counterparts. Male gorillas weigh about 400 pounds, and female gorillas weigh about 200 pounds (“All about gorillas” 2). Second, most of gorillas’ bodies are covered by fur. Only the palms of their hands, soles of their feet, noses, lips, and ears do not have fur. Most humans have hair on just a few spots like their heads. Third, the muscles in gorillas’ arms are larger than the muscles in their legs. This is the opposite of human arms and legs. Also, gorillas’ legs are shorter than their arms. Again, this is the opposite of humans. Finally, gorillas mostly walk around on all fours. They only walk on their feet when carrying something or when defending something. In contrast, humans mainly walk on their feet.

# Concluding Paragraph

## Concluding Transition Sentence:

- Includes a transition
- Names the items that have been contrasted
- Mentions “contrasting” in some way

## Detail Sentences:

- Cover a Concluding Option OR
- Summarize the differences

## Clincher Sentence:

- Names the items
- Mentions that they are different
- Provides the main message of the theme



# Example

## Concluding Paragraph

To conclude, gorillas have some characteristics that are distinctly different from human characteristics, including how they look, how intelligent they are, and what they eat. Although they can walk upright in certain situations, their hairy appearance and the fact that they walk mainly on all fours make gorillas look quite different from humans. Despite the fact that a few gorillas have learned some sign language, gorillas do not seem to be as intelligent as humans. Furthermore, they focus their time and activities on eating plants and sleeping. Thus, although they are related to humans, all of these traits make gorillas distant cousins to humans in the animal family.