

Compare and Contrast a Book and a Movie

In a compare and contrast essay, you show the similarities and differences between two people, things, ideas, approaches, etc., and draw some conclusion based on this examination. You choose the categories to compare and contrast based on your purpose, and these categories will change depending on your topic.

Sometimes you will want to compare and contrast two different treatments of the same subject in different genres or media. You might want to do this if one work has been adapted or translated to create a new work, if a work has inspired or influenced another work, or if they have the same subject and enough in common or such wide differences that you think it would be fruitful to see the similarities and differences in how they make meaning and achieve their effects.

In this particular case, you are going to contrast the book of *The Outsiders* with the movie made from the book. Usually it is easier to do this if you both read the book twice and watch the movie at least twice, once to experience it, and once to take notes for your paper. Here are some questions that would be useful to examine:

- A movie is usually no longer than 2 hours, so a movie adaptation of a book leaves out material included in the book. What is excerpted or compressed in this movie?
- A movie script may have additional material not included in the book, or may make changes in the book. What additions and/or changes do you notice?
- How did your imaginings of the characters, settings, and actions of the book differ from the way they were presented in the movie? Compare the characterizations and the plots carefully.
- Apart from the book, did the movie work as an experience in itself? Did it hold your interest? Was it worthwhile?
- Did the theme(s) you identified in the book come out in the movie? If not, what message(s) did the movie give?
- Which did you like better-the book or the movie? Why?

Source words that can help you express concepts of similarity and difference include the following:

*as well as	*likewise	*at the same time
*similarly	*alike	*resemble
*differ	*while	*conversely
*whereas	*but	*though
*however	*on the contrary	*on the other hand

1. Write an essay comparing and contrasting the book and the movie of *The Outsiders*.