TO: Student
FROM: Ashley Morales
DATE: February 25, 2019
SUBJECT: Compare/Contrast Essay

Congratulations on your progress in writing this EDCP 103 assignment!

You have done well by choosing two topics on which to compare and contrast. Continue to work on this and turn in a superb product!

My name is Ashley, and I am an advisor with the Effective Writing Center. It is my pleasure to work with you today! For an audio voice message, feel free to view my Voki welcome message.

Now, before we begin, let’s review a few important guidelines and resources:

- Students may submit one request for advice (either written feedback or live online advising) every 48 hours.

- You are welcome to come to the Effective Writing Center for help at any stage in the writing process, whether you are just getting started an assignment or want feedback on a rough draft.

- Resources to help you revise your writing assignment are hyperlinked within this letter and in the More Resources section at the end.

- Before reading this advice, please review the writing that you submitted. We’ve pasted your draft at the end of this advice letter.

EWC advisors are attentive readers who help you improve as a writer by explaining and modeling effective writing skills. For a more detailed discussion of our services, please click this link and visit the Effective Writing Center web site.
Are You Interested in More Help?

Schedule a Live Advising Appointment!
- The Effective Writing Center also offers live, online advising via teleconference. You can submit an appointment request through the MyUMGC portal.

Attend an Online Workshop!
- The EWC hosts monthly live workshops in Google Hangouts. Our complete calendar is available here.

Advice Overview

We will discuss the following strategies that can help you to strengthen your paper:
- Enhancing the thesis statement;
- Building body paragraphs;
- Finding and implementing outside sources; and
- Using verbs in their proper tense.

In the sections below, you will find that your copied work is in this color and any correction to your work is in this color. Any example that I provide of incorrect wording is in this color, any example that I provide of correct writing is in this color. Any of your comments or requests are in this color; your professor’s words (either verbatim or paraphrased) are in this color. Last, I use bold to highlight any term that is of importance or focus. If this coding system presents a problem, contact the EWC and let us know how we can better assist you.

Please note that although we will cover revisions and rules, your professor’s instructions always take precedence over any EWC advice you receive. If you have any questions, refer to your assignment guidelines first and do not hesitate to ask your professor to clarify any unanswered questions.

Assignment Management

Thank you for submitting the assignment requirements. Our goal is to ensure that your paper meets your professor’s assignment requirements as closely as possible, so this information is a big help!
Below is a table with an overview of your assignment, what you have completed, and what you need to fulfill the requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Requires</th>
<th>You Have</th>
<th>You Need</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compare and contrast essay: introduction, thesis, three supporting paragraphs, similarities and/or differences, transition words/phrases, and a conclusion.</td>
<td>You have included all these parts.</td>
<td>See what you can do to enhance these parts. In the Thesis &amp; Development section, you will find advice on enhancing the thesis statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thinking Generating ideas (similarities and/or differences in three distinct features between two subjects).</td>
<td>You have body paragraphs; you have 4, so at least 3.</td>
<td>Work on building these so that each one contains a similarity or difference. See help on this in the Development &amp; Research section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more different and reliable sources used.</td>
<td>I do not see that you have used any outside sources.</td>
<td>Implement two or more outside sources. For help, see the Formatting &amp; Citations section.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for submitting your comment; my response this is in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I’ve never used the EWC!</td>
<td>Thank you for contacting the EWC. I am glad that you have reached out to us; we love to welcome new students. I hope that my advice helps, and if you need further support, feel to contact us.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Enhancing the Thesis Statement

Your professor has requested that you provide a thesis statement; as well, you are required to “[f]ollow [the] basic structure of a compare and contrast essay” and provide “similarities and/or differences between two subjects.”

I looked through your introduction for your thesis. It appears to be at the end of this first paragraph. See this part here:

How do you spend your long holidays? Do you want to travel abroad? It is so exciting to fly abroad. Or do you relax at home? It may be the ultimate luxury, not to wear shoes at all, but to relax anyway. You can decide for yourself how to spend long holidays. Hence, it is up to you how it changes before and after the holidays as a result of your selection.

I am glad to see that you have this. You have chosen to compare/contrast traveling abroad to staying at home and relaxing. You explain this contrast and lead into your thesis. However, this thesis—on its own—does not fully explain what you are trying to state. Therefore, I suggest that you work to enhance it so that it can fully explain it point/purpose. Perhaps consider this revision (considering the fact that the second person pronoun is allowed):

You can decide for yourself how to spend long holidays: to travel abroad or relax at home. [Write something here that indicates the top three (or more) similarities or differences; you might write something like this: There are [number] things that you need to consider when deciding how to spend a long holiday: what location you find most exciting or relaxing, the cost, the amount of time away from home, and the impact it will make on your life.]

Make sure that you include the main points that are listed in the body paragraphs in your paper. Use the above sample for assistance.

Make sure to spend some time on writing a strong thesis. For outside help, you can visit Indiana University’s “How to Write a Thesis Statement” site.
Building Body Paragraphs

Once you have strengthened your thesis, you can then work to build your body paragraphs. Your professor has noted that you should think/generate “ideas (similarities and/or differences in three distinct features between two subjects).” Since this is so, I recommend that you make sure that you accomplish this in every paragraph.

Based on what I see in your body paragraphs, it appears that your paragraphs are set up this way:

1. The experience of traveling abroad versus staying at home.
2. The cost.
3. The location that is the most exciting or relaxing (whichever is most important).
4. The change oneself that one may encounter.

Here is a sample of a body paragraphs format:

Each paragraph in the body of your paper should begin with a strong **topic sentence** that states that paragraph’s main point; this point should also refer back to your paper’s thesis. The middle of the paragraph should support the topic sentence’s argument. This part should include sentences written in your own words and also support from outside resources, such as direct quotes, paraphrases, or in the very small case, long quotations (or block quotes). Finally, the last sentence in the body paragraph, the **conclusion sentence**, reminds the reader of the topic sentence’s argument, which also brings the reader back to the thesis’s grand argument.
The African Union and the United Nations work closely and provide peace and unity in both in Africa and the world. The African Union is a strong United Nations partner and has been so since its former self: the Organization of African Unity. It works closely with the United Nations’ Department of Political Affairs, which “strives to align the priorities of both the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peace and security so that their efforts become more efficient and effective in Africa” (United Nations Department of Political Affairs 2014, para. 3 under “Enhancing the partnership for a peaceful Africa”). The African Union has set up peacekeeping areas in Africa for incoming United Nations’ peacekeepers. For example, Frieden, Lake, and Shultz (2016) tell this: “After civil conflict broke out in the Central African Republic in 2013, the African Union … deployed soldiers to help contain the violence and protect civilians. In September 2014, that mission was replaced by a larger UN peacekeeping operation” (p. 207). Addressing their needs, the United Nations’s overseeing assistance is deeply needed to “address Africa's chronic security crises” and the United Nations needs the African Union to “serve the security interests of [its] member states” (Weiss and Welz, 2014, p. 905). The UN-African Union relationship is not perfect, but it has become somewhat symbiotic and dependent in nature as they have assisted one another in promoting goodwill and harmony throughout Africa and beyond.

Use the above to assist you in writing a strong body paragraphs. Perhaps your body paragraphs can be labeled as so:

1. The experience of traveling abroad versus staying at home.
2. The cost of one versus the other.
3. The excitement of the traveling abroad versus staying at home.
4. The change that one encounters traveling abroad versus staying at home.

All in all, make sure that the point of every paragraph leads to the thesis statement.

For outside assistance, please feel free to see this UNC Paragraph lesson, this Purdue University lesson on Paragraphing, or this Purdue University On Paragraphs lesson.
Finding and Implementing Outside Sources

Your professor has required that you should include “[t]wo or more different and reliable sources” within your work. I do not see any sources used in your work. Therefore, work to make sure that you add these.

The UMGC online library can be an excellent place to find multiple databases that can point you to sources. Once you have found at least three—or more—depending on your essay body paragraphs (in your case, 4), work to implement them into your body paragraphs. Make sure that each one supports its topic sentence’s argument—and ultimately—the thesis.

For outside assistance, please see this Purdue University APA General Format tutorial.

Using Verbs in their Proper Tense

I thought it best to go over the topic of using verbs in their proper tense.

See this sentence from your paper:

In fact, according to the Nikkei Newspaper, Japanese people who travel abroad during the 2019 Golden Week are 662,000, up 7% from the previous year.
In this sentence, I noticed that you needed to change something things, which especially included writing verbs in their proper tense. See my revision here:

In fact, according to the Nikkei Newspaper, the number of Japanese citizens who traveled abroad during the 2019 Golden Week were 662,000, which is up 7% from the previous year.

Make sure to implement these changes. As well, look at other sentences that might have suffered from the same.

Closing Advice

Please utilize the above advice to assist you in correcting errors in your paper.

Proofreading Your Assignment

As well, please proofread your paper before turning it in for a grade. To proofread effectively, grab a copy of your paper, either in print or digital form. Then, read your paper aloud (or sign it). As you read/sign it, highlight or mark errors that you see. Once you have finishing reading, go back and correct these errors.

Outside Resources

For more, see State University of New York Empire State College Lesson on Comma Use, this University of North Carolina Editing and Proofreading link, or this Gustavus Adolphus College’s General Strategies for Editing and Proofreading.

Summary

Good luck, Student! As you continue your EDCP 103 assignment, be sure to:
1. Enhance the thesis statement.
2. Build body paragraphs.
3. Find and implement outside sources.
4. Use verbs in their proper tense.
5. Proofread your assignment before turning it in for a grade.
6. Contact the Effective Writing Center for additional assistance.

Ashley
The Ashford University Writing Center on Outlining

Walden University on Reflecting and Improving Writing

The Odegaard Writing & Research Center Handout on Strong Paragraphs

Aims Community College's Online Writing Lab Post on Body Paragraph Exercises

Odegaard Writing & Research Center's Document on Structuring and Organizing a Paper

Purdue University on Organizing Your Argument

The UNC Writing Center on Audience

The Owl Purdue Writing Lab on Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Summarizing

The Northern Illinois University Punctuation Self-Test

The Odegaard Writing Center Handout on Revising Your Paper

Cornerstone University on Six Steps to Editing Your Paper

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Handout on Editing and Proofreading