

# *Compare/Contrast Writer's Workshop*

What does it mean to compare/contrast?

## I. When you compare/contrast it means that you:

- \* describe the similarities and differences in two or more items
- \* address the same features or questions about each subject in the same order
- \* organize accordingly:

-subject-by-subject method

or

-feature-by-feature method

## II. Organization

### *Subject-by-Subject Method:*

2 body paragraphs

(one paragraph about each subject, discussing the features of the subject in the same order in each paragraph)

### *Feature-by-Feature Method:*

(as many body paragraphs as there are features)

addresses one feature at a time rather than one subject at a time

### III. Thesis:

helps create a strong argument and gives your reader a road map so that he/she doesn't get lost in your sea of points

Examples of thesis statements:

#### Not So Good Thesis Statement:

LaVita's and Passariello's are similar in many ways, but they also have some differences.

#### Good Thesis Statement

LaVita's and Passariello's have similar prices and ingredients, but their atmospheres and willingness to deliver is what sets them apart.

#### Great Thesis Statement:

LaVita's and Passariello's both offer a great variety of ingredients and flavor, but the lively and courteous staff at LaVita's make it a better place to grab a quick piece of pizza.

### IV. Transitions

#### To compare/show similarities:

like, similar to, in comparison to, also, similarly, likewise,

#### To contrast/show differences:

in contrast to, however, although, yet, even though, nevertheless, despite, on the other hand, unlike