

Writing Task: Contrast and Compare Two Universities of Interest

Academic Language Objective	Learners will be able to understand comparative language by engaging with a contrast and compare writing activity involving two university study abroad programs of interest.																			
Overview	For learners interested in study abroad, a compare/contrast analysis of two universities of interest abroad can lead to the discovery of a potential imagined community while integrating critical thinking skills into academic writing.																			
Step One	Learners go online to find information on two university study abroad programs. An example would be two universities within the ELS Program . University One: University of St. Thomas University Two: University of La Verne																			
Step Two	Learners fill out a predetermined chart comparing various features of the two university programs. This is an example and can be modified based on learner needs/interests. <table border="1" data-bbox="667 834 1892 1250" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">University</th> <th style="width: 35%;">University of St. Thomas</th> <th style="width: 40%;">University of Laverne</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Rank</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Location</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Climate</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Admission requirements</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuition and Fees</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		University	University of St. Thomas	University of Laverne	Rank			Location			Climate			Admission requirements			Tuition and Fees		
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Step Three	Learners complete a five-minute paper comparing and contrasting the two university programs based on the information from the chart.																			

Language Frames (Scaffolded as Necessary)

Opening	By comparing _____ to _____ , it is clear that _____.
Similar vs. Different	One difference between _____ and _____ is _____. In contrast, _____ is _____ than _____.
Closing	Although _____ and _____ are similar, I am more interested in _____ because _____.

Future Tasks: Based on what university the learner chooses, future 5-minute papers / free writes can be determined based on what they imagine life to be like at the particular university?

Potential writing starters / frames: Take a [virtual tour](#) of the University of St. Thomas - What places interest you? What do you see yourself doing there? Who will you be engaging with there?