

Helpers in Writing

Wong, B.Y.L., Butler, D.L., Ficzere, S.A., & Kuperis, S. (1997). Teaching adolescents with learning disabilities and low achievers to plan, write, and revise compare-and-contrast essays. *Learning Disabilities Research & Practice*, 12(1), 2-15.

This is a writing strategy designed to help students write compare-and-contrast essays. This strategy employs a planning sheet called **HELPERS in Writing** (Figure 1).

Figure 1

HELPERS in Writing	
Introduction (Thesis statement)	
	In this essay, I am going to compare and contrast _____ and _____. I have chosen to write on three features: (1), (2), and (3).
	I am writing this compare and contrast essay on _____ and _____. I shall write on three features: (1), (2), and (3).
Examples:	In this essay, I am going to compare and contrast rock concerts and school concerts. I have chosen to write on three features: Goals, dress and demeanor.
	Marijuana and LSD are both illegal drugs which have similar effects and usage but differ in appearance.
Conclusion:	
	Here you need to do 2 things: (a) summarize the features , and (b) express your own opinion and say what you like better .
Examples:	School concerts and rock concerts both provide entertainment. But I like school concerts better because they are free, they have my kind of music, they let me wear what I want, but they don't allow rowdy behavior!
	Christmas and summer holidays are both fun times. But you engage in different activities and meet different kinds of hazards: I think I like summer holidays because I really like sunbathing!
	After comparing and contrasting Christmas and summer holidays, I think I like summer holidays better because I really enjoy sunbathing!
	Although marijuana and LSD differ in their appearance, they are similar in their effects and usage. Let's hope the usage is not too high.