

# Compare and Contrast Travel Essay



## Prompt

Arguing for the value of travel to new places, Jack Kerouac once wrote, "Our battered suitcases were piled on the sidewalk again; we had longer ways to go. But no matter, the road is life." Unfortunately, not all of us have the ability, time, and/or money to travel everywhere we want, whenever we want, so your task is to write a paper that includes research about two potential travel destinations, a comparison of the two, and a persuasive argument that one destination is better than the other.

## Essay Requirements

- 3-4 body paragraphs (3 for Railroad Strategy, 4 for Tennis Court)
- A strong intro paragraph w/ a STAMPy hook, bridge, and effective thesis.
- 800-1200 words
- 5 Sources and a Works Cited Page in Correct MLA format
- 3+ paraphrases (cited)
- 3+ properly embedded quotes (cited)
- Demonstrated clear understanding of the Railroad/Tennis Court Structure

## Tips for the Essay

- While the essay should still be formal in its language and structure, you can think of your audience as potential travelers, not teachers grading an English paper. That means the last paragraph (the argument for one destination over the other) can be more informal, more persuasive, and more engaging. Think of yourself as someone selling a destination to a potential client or a friend you want to accompany you to your chosen destination.
- Some of the best resources for research include travel guides like Lonely Planet (available in the library), the New York Times travel section, and travel magazines online. Try to use high-quality sources. **NO WIKIPEDIA!**
- Choose two destinations that are parallel. In other words, don't compare a country with a city. The essay can be about the relative merits of two countries, cities, stadiums, museums, states, amusement parks, or any other travel destinations. **Try to select two places you haven't visited before to force yourself to do more interesting research.**
- When you paraphrase, make sure not to plagiarize. We'll practice this in class.
- Structure, structure, structure. Make sure the piece clearly follows the patterns we've reviewed in class.
- You don't need a conclusion paragraph, as the last paragraph will serve that function.

## Sample Structures

### RAILROAD

#### Intro

#### Paragraph 1: Chicago

- A. Food
- B. Culture
- C. Safety

#### Paragraph 2: Detroit

- A. Food
- B. Culture
- C. Safety

#### Paragraph 3: Persuasive Argument

### TENNIS COURT

#### Intro

#### Body Paragraph 1: Food

- A. Chicago
- B. Detroit

#### Body Paragraph 2: Culture

- A. Chicago
- B. Detroit

#### Body Paragraph 3: Safety

- A. Chicago
- B. Detroit

#### Body Paragraph 4: Persuasive Argumen