

# English 092 Unit 2.3

## Student Sample Essay – Compare and Contrast

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With Instructor Comments in brackets [...]

This is a student compare and contrast essay. The comments in red highlight the key parts of the essay structure.

Do You Like to Watch?

*[Suggestive title—catches the reader’s attention]*

**[Introductory Paragraph]**

Whether it’s Kubrick’s manic ultra-violence, or Keanu Reeves making minutes drag on like hours, people enjoy movies. *[Introductory sentence grabs the reader’s attention]* With today’s growing industry of entertainment technology, our viewing options are increasing exponentially. You can watch movies in a conventional theater, at home on TV, through your computer, on handheld portable players, or even in your car. In all of this rampant growth, two viewing forms have become the most popular industry standards: the movie theater and the home DVD player. **The main things to consider when debating whether to go to a theater or to watch a DVD at home are environment, movie quality, and price.** *[Three point thesis statement previews the points that will be developed in the body paragraphs.]*

**[Supporting Paragraph One]**

Since you’re going to be sitting there for two hours, the actual surrounding environment should be high on your list of concerns. *[Topic sentence introduces the first point-environment]* Movie theaters are infamous for their seats. *[Note use of visual examples in following sentences.]* Stiff seats, absolutely no leg room, and arm rests that have to be

shared with the sweaty guy next to you make theater seats some of the worst possible. If you happen to be hungry before the movie starts, theaters tend to offer very little as far as variety of food goes. You usually have a choice of fast food, popcorn or candy. Don't wait too long in line for that bag of gummy bears though, because one thing that the theater environment doesn't offer is flexibility. The movie will start without you. Once you have your food, you've found your uncomfortable seat, and the show is starting, take a moment and look around you. One of the most unpredictable aspects of the theater environment is the audience. You have to share this space with 300 other people that you've never met who are going to make noises and put in their two cents worth throughout the entire feature. Your home, on the other hand, probably has your favorite chair or couch, with indents that make your bottom feel like it belongs. If you're hungry, you can eat whatever you want. You aren't going to get kicked out for bringing in outside food or drink either. Once you have your food, you can start the feature whenever you feel like it, and if you have to use the washroom, you can pause the movie. Best of all, when it's show time, you can watch the movie with whomever you choose. You don't have to let that sweaty guy in just because he showed up at your door with a \$10 bill.

[Supporting Paragraph Two]

When it comes down to it, if you're watching a movie, the quality of the picture and sound are probably pretty important. *[Topic sentence covers point two from the thesis.]* While theaters have giant screens, the picture is projected from a reel that has blemishes and is often not in focus. As far as audio goes, theaters have a digital sound, emanating from more speakers than you can count, that makes you feel as if you're in the movie. In contrast, home theaters have drastically smaller screens, but the DVD players provide a digital picture that is crisp, clear, and flawless. Home

theaters are also capable of the same digital sound as a theater, and you can control the volume to have it as loud or quiet as you like.

[Supporting Paragraph Three]

An evening of entertainment doesn't come free, so it is also good to be aware of what this is all going to cost you. *[Topic sentence covers point three from the thesis.]* Seeing a movie in the theater is going to cost you an average of ten dollars just to see the film. If you want food, that cheap looking bag of popcorn is worth more per kilo than gold. A small bag will cost about five dollars. While the initial cost of a DVD rental seems cheaper at six dollars, it can easily grow if you forget to return it on time. If you don't want to rent, but would rather purchase a DVD, the average price on a new DVD is thirty dollars. On the upside, that same five-dollar bag of popcorn will cost you one tenth of the price at the supermarket for home consumption, but you also have more food choices at home. Sometimes it's nice to sit down with Silence of the Lambs and some nice fava beans.

[Concluding Paragraph]

To fully enjoy a movie, you need a good setting and a quality presentation with a price tag that you're comfortable with. *[Refers back to the main points in different words]* Although, if you're a movie freak like me, you'll go see it on the big screen first, and then buy it when it comes out on DVD, so you can watch Napoleon Dynamite's dance scene over and over. *[Concludes on a humorous note]*