



**Jump for joy!  
are writing a compare and  
contrast essay!**

**Compare and contrast the two major  
political parties by focusing on how  
they function similarly and how their  
ideologies (social/political and  
economic on government  
involvement differ**

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**Compare:**

**For your thesis statement:**

- Identify how the two parties are similar



**For the body of your paper:**

- You pick two functions of political parties  
This will support what you said in your thesis  
statement

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**Contrast**

**For your thesis statement:**

- How the two political parties differ ideologically  
on the role of government



**For the body of your paper:**

- You discuss what each party believes the role of  
government should be in the economy and on  
social/political matters

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## Evidence

- You must illustrate what you are saying by using evidence
- Evidence helps to support your thesis
- You will find evidence to support your thesis in newspapers, on television, on the internet and in the mail



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## Explanation

In order to avoid writing a list of examples and not supporting your thesis you must

**EXPLAIN HOW THE EVIDENCE SUPPORTS YOUR THESIS!**

### Phrases to use:

This shows that...

This is important because...

As a result...

This means that....

This is significant because....

As a consequence of this...



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## Conclusion

- Briefly sum up the points you have just written
- Include an analysis of the importance of the topic:

### Questions to ponder:

Why is it important to have political parties?

Why are ideologies different?

What would life be like if citizens were not given a choice of political parties?

Do we have enough of a choice? Do the two political parties effectively reflect the ideologies of American citizens?

Does voter apathy reflect a problem with our two party system?

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