3. The Simple In-Class Compare & Contrast (or "To What Extent") Essay Outline: The Similarities and Differences Between Automobiles and Bicycles

INTRO. PARA. BP1 Anti-Thesis BP2 Pro-Thesis BP3 Pro-Thesis

CONCL.

PARA.

Topic: Compare and contrast automobiles with bicycles.

Thesis: The **differences** between automobiles and bicycles **are more significant than their similarities**.

[This thesis can, of course, be reversed.]

Warnings: Avoid saying "X and Y are similar and different." This is a contradiction! Also, make sure the final sentence is pro-thesis; it must contrast with the topic sentence of BP1.

Topic Sentence: **To be sure**, cars and bicycles do share some similarities in terms of function and ownership.

Example 1 - both move you from A to B Example 2 - both are private modes of transportation; don't rely on public transit schedules or funding

Discuss both sides of the issue (i.e. both bicycles and cars).

Topic Sentence: **Nevertheless**, these two transportation technologies have more significant differences when we consider issues such as speed, weather, cost and health.

Example $1 - \cos t$ (+ bicycle)

Example 2 – impact on health (+ bicycle)

Example 3 - speed (+ car)

Example 4 – weather dependencies (+ car)

Discuss both sides of the issue (i.e. both bicycles and cars).

BP3 is optional if you have enough time and evidence. In our example above, we can easily split BP2 into two BP's: cost and health vs. speed and weather. Please ensure that there is a clear reason for splitting the pro-thesis argument into two. *Don't create two BP's that discuss the same topics or examples!*

- 1. Restatement of topic and thesis
- 2. Summary of main points
- 3. Generalization: Why *are* the differences between the automobile and bicycle more significant?

For longer take-home and research essays, more paragraphs will likely be needed. Consider turning each BP point/example into a separate BP.

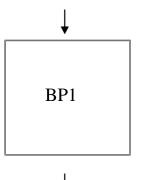
4. The Complex (Topical) Compare and Contrast Essay Outline: The Similarities and Differences Between Automobiles and Bicycles

INTRO. PARA. Topic: Compare and contrast automobiles with bicycles.

Thesis: The **differences** between automobiles and bicycles **are more significant than their similarities**.

...or...

Thesis: Generally speaking, the automobile is a more effective form of transportation that the bicycle.



Topic Sentence: **It is true** that the bicycle is a more **environmentally sustainable** form of transportation than automobiles.

Ex. 1 - the bicycle does not use fuel; the auto does Ex. 2 - the bicycle does not emit exhaust; the auto is a major emitter of carbon dioxide Ex. 3 - bicycles use fewer metals and other materials than the automobile

Discuss both sides of the issue (i.e. both bicycles and cars).



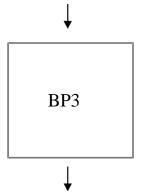
Topic Sentence: **Nevertheless**, the automobile can go **faster and farther** in a given period of time.

Ex. 1 - the bicycle can often match the automobile in urban settings Ex. 2 - in suburban and rural settings, however, the automobile goes

Ex. 3 - long distance travel

faster and farther

Discuss both sides of the issue (i.e. both bicycles and cars).



Topic Sentence: **Moreover**, the automobile can **carry more persons and cargo**.

Ex. 1 - the bicycle can carry one or two riders, sidebags, and perhaps a small trailer

Ex. 2 - even compact cars can carry four passengers and cargo, plus use a roof rack and/or trailer

Discuss both sides of the issue (i.e. both bicycles and cars).



- 1. Restatement of topic and thesis
- 2. Summary of main points
- 3. Generalization: Why *is* the automobile a more effective form of transportation?

For longer take-home and research essays, more paragraphs will likely be needed. Consider turning each BP point/example into a separate BP.