Compare/Contrast Paragraph Template

1. **Topic sentence/Main Point - based on the characteristics you are exploring what conclusions/observations have you reached?**

My neighborhood and Junior's neighborhood have many similarities and differences.

Why is this sentence problematic?

It states the obvious - this is a compare/contrast paragraph so we already know that this would be the case.

Tip:

* Specify (give readers a taste of what you are going to discuss)

*My neighborhood and Junior's neighborhood have many similarities and differences in* ***two main areas: opportunities and belonging.***

**Point 1:**

Topic: Opportunities

Similarities + Examples

Differences + Examples

*There are more opportunities in my community when contrasted with Junior's. Junior says for example "what kind of job can an Indian boy get" proving that there are limited opportunities for employment on his reservation (Sherman 10). In my community, on the other hand, an individual can start working at 15 years old and there are various businesses such as grocery stores and restaurants that will hire. When it comes to similarities, both Junior and I have access to education. He goes to a high school on his reservation and I attend one in my local community. It is important to discover however whether the education is meeting the needs of the local community.*

**Point 2:**

Topic: Opportunities

Similarities + Examples

Differences + Examples

**Concluding Sentence:**

* In conclusion, to conclude, as expressed, therefore, in summary, briefly
* Answers the “so what?” Why are your observations important?