

COMP2 - Comparative Essay Project

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Instructions: Each student will write a comparative essay comparing key differences between two related ideas (see the topic list below). Your essay should...

- Choose one side and explain why it is better than the other.
- Use the point-by-point organisational style with specific examples in each point of contrast.
- Use trusted sources to show the validity of your ideas and cite them using APA format.

As we complete this project together in steps, we will use GPT to assist with your organisation, research, and composition and to help proofread and edit your work for grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors.

Step 1: **Choose a topic** for your essay project. Only one person per team can choose each topic. *Please look carefully at the question after each set of ideas*, as it limits the topic in important ways. Your thesis statement and essay *should address this question specifically*.

1. Capitalism vs. socialism: Which economic system is more effective at promoting social welfare and reducing income inequality?
2. Urban living vs. rural living: Which lifestyle offers a higher quality of life and greater personal fulfilment?
3. Nature vs. nurture: Which plays a more significant role in human development?
4. Democracy vs. autocracy: Which system of governance is more effective for modern societies?
5. Minimalism vs. consumerism: Which lifestyle leads to greater personal well-being?
6. Individualism vs. collectivism: Which cultural paradigm is more conducive to societal progress?
7. Protectionism vs. free trade: Which economic policy is more advantageous for national economic development?
8. Multiculturalism vs. assimilation: Which approach to cultural diversity is more beneficial for society?
9. Renewable energy vs. nuclear power: Which energy source is more sustainable and efficient for future generations?
10. Organic vs. conventional agriculture: Which farming method is more sustainable and beneficial for human health?
11. Vertical farming vs. traditional farming: Which method is more sustainable and efficient for urban food production?
12. Automation vs. human labour: Which approach is more beneficial for long-term economic development?
13. Decriminalisation vs. legalisation of drugs: Which approach is more effective in addressing drug-related social issues?
14. Nationalism vs. global citizenship: Which mindset is more conducive to being a good citizen?
15. Privacy vs. security: Which concept should take precedence in digital surveillance and data collection practices?
16. Artificial intelligence vs. human creativity: Which force will have a greater impact on the future of innovation?
17. Digital nomadism vs. traditional work lifestyles: Which work arrangement better promotes work-life balance?
18. Fame vs anonymity: Which is preferable in current Korean society?
19. Promoting mass tourism vs. sustainable tourism: Which approach is more beneficial for local communities and the environment?
20. Online privacy vs. data monetization: Which approach is more beneficial for consumers?
21. Traditional journalism vs. amateur news bloggers: Which approach is more reliable for disseminating information?
22. Isolationism vs. globalism: Which foreign policy approach better serves a nation's interests?
23. Reality TV vs. scripted dramas: Which television genre has a more significant influence on society's values and behaviour?
24. Independent film vs. Hollywood blockbusters: Which type of cinema offers more artistic value?

25. Internet censorship vs. freedom of speech: Which approach better balances societal stability and individual expression?
26. E-books vs. printed books: Which format offers a more enjoyable reading experience?
27. Online influencers vs. traditional celebrities: Which group has more influence on popular culture?
28. Free-range parenting vs. helicopter parenting: Which parenting style leads to more well-rounded and resilient children?
29. Single-sex vs. coeducational schools: Which environment better promotes gender equality and academic achievement?
30. Work-from-home vs. office work: Which work setting promotes greater productivity and employee well-being?
31. Four-day work week vs. traditional five-day work week: Which schedule better promotes employee productivity and well-being?
32. Public School vs. Private School: Which provides a better education?
33. Online Learning vs. Classroom Learning: Which is more effective for student engagement and knowledge retention?
34. Social Media vs. Traditional Media: Which is more influential in shaping public opinion today?
35. Electric Cars vs. Gasoline Cars: Which is better for the environment?
36. Plant-Based Diet vs. Meat-Based Diet: Which is healthier and more sustainable?
37. Remote Work vs. In-Office Work: Which leads to higher productivity and employee satisfaction?
38. Renting vs. Homeownership: Which is a better financial decision for individuals in today's economy?
39. Traditional Retail vs. E-commerce: Which is more advantageous for the economy and consumer choice?
40. Western Medicine vs. Alternative Medicine: Which is more effective for long-term health and wellness?

Step 2: OUTLINE_PROMPT:

“Write two detailed outlines for a five-paragraph university comparison essay using the following topic: Restorative justice vs. punitive justice: Which approach is more effective in reducing crime rates? The thesis statement should indicate one position as better than the other and the detailed point-by-point comparisons should validate this position with specific examples. Use the following outlines as models for the output:

Sample outlines:

Position #1: Restorative justice is better.

I. Introduction

A. Brief definition of restorative justice and punitive justice

B. Thesis statement: *Restorative justice is a more effective approach than punitive justice in reducing crime rates, as it focuses on repairing harm, encourages offender accountability, and fosters community involvement.*

II. Focus on Repairing Harm

A. Restorative justice

1. Addresses the needs of victims and communities affected by crime
2. Facilitates healing and rehabilitation for all parties involved

B. Punitive justice

1. Focuses primarily on punishment and retribution
2. May not address the underlying causes of criminal behavior

III. Encouraging Offender Accountability

A. Restorative justice

1. Offenders take responsibility for their actions
2. Participate in repairing the harm caused and addressing the root causes of their behavior

B. Punitive justice

1. Punishment as the main form of accountability
2. Limited opportunities for offenders to learn from their mistakes and make amends

IV. Fostering Community Involvement

A. Restorative justice

1. Community members actively participate in the justice process
2. Collaborative problem-solving to address the impacts of crime and prevent recidivism

B. Punitive justice

1. Limited role for community members in the justice process
2. Focus on punishment may not address broader community concerns or crime prevention

V. Conclusion

A. Recap of the main points supporting restorative justice as a more effective approach

B. Restate thesis: *Restorative justice is more effective in reducing crime rates due to its focus on repairing harm, encouraging offender accountability, and fostering community involvement.*

C. Implications for criminal justice policy and future research

Position #2: Punitive justice is better.

I. Introduction

A. Brief explanation of restorative justice and punitive justice

B. Thesis statement: *This essay will argue that punitive justice is a more effective approach than restorative justice in reducing crime rates, as it emphasizes deterrence, maintains public safety, and upholds the rule of law.*

II. Emphasis on Deterrence

- A. Punitive justice
 1. Imposes strict consequences for criminal behavior
 2. Discourages potential offenders from committing crimes
 - B. Restorative justice
 1. Focuses on repairing harm and healing relationships
 2. May not provide a strong deterrent effect for potential offenders
- III. Maintaining Public Safety
- A. Punitive justice
 1. Incarceration removes dangerous offenders from society
 2. Protects potential victims and promotes public safety
 - B. Restorative justice
 1. Offenders may remain in the community during the rehabilitation process
 2. Potential risks to public safety if rehabilitation efforts fail
- IV. Upholding the Rule of Law
- A. Punitive justice
 1. Ensures that offenders are held accountable for their actions
 2. Reinforces the importance of adhering to society's laws
 - B. Restorative justice
 1. Focuses on repairing harm and reconciling relationships
 2. May not always emphasize the importance of legal consequences for criminal behavior
- V. Conclusion
- A. Recap of the main points supporting punitive justice as a more effective approach
 - B. Restate thesis: Punitive justice is more effective in reducing crime rates due to its emphasis on deterrence, maintaining public safety, and upholding the rule of law.
 - C. Implications for criminal justice policy and future research”

Step #3: THESIS_STATEMENT_PROMPT:

“Write a thesis statement for a comparative essay that discusses two opposing concepts, highlighting the key differences between them and clearly stating the preferred position and the reasoning behind that preference. Base the thesis statement on the following topic and choose restorative justice as the preferred method: Restorative justice vs. punitive justice: Which approach is more effective in reducing crime rates? Use the following example as a model for the response:

“In the pursuit of effective crime reduction strategies, restorative justice and punitive justice present contrasting approaches to dealing with criminal offences. While restorative justice centers on mending the harm caused by crime through offender accountability and victim healing, punitive justice relies on punishment as a means of deterrence. *This essay will argue in favor of restorative justice as the more effective method for reducing crime rates, as it addresses the root causes of criminal behavior and fosters rehabilitation, ultimately cultivating a society that is both safer and grounded in the principles of empathy and forgiveness.*”