Essay Types: the Comparison/Contrast Essay

1. In the phrase comparison-contrast, the word comparison means similarities and contrast means differences. You should decide which you want to emphasize, and subordinate the other, both in your Th/s and your t/s’s

Example. Th/s  [Although protagonists Louise Mallard and Elisa Allen are superficially quite different, their similarities show that they are both round characters]
1st t/s  While their environment (setting) may be different, L.M. and E.A. respond to it similarly.

Another way of stating the Th/s  [Although protagonists Louise Mallard and Elisa Allen are superficially quite different, their round characters are shown by their similar responses to their environment, their repression of feelings and their climactic epiphanies.]
1st t/s  While their environment is not the same, both characters respond to such different settings similarly.

2. Each point of comp. or contrast has to be on the same thing, called basis (plural: bases). It’s not a real basis unless it’s common to both sides.

Examples: While Grandmother and Abner Snopes have many differences, GM is elderly and Abner lives to burn barns. [italicized terms not a common basis]. Another example: While GM and Abner have many differences, they respond to rules similarly. [Here, the italicized term is on a basis common to both GM and Abner].