

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

How to Write a **Compare** & **Contrast** Paragraph:
Japan and the United States – Population Density

When you are comparing and contrasting two or more things, you are explaining how they are **similar** (same or alike) and **different** (dissimilar or unlike).

Below is a list of common words one can use when comparing and contrasting two or more things:

<u>Compare</u>	<u>Contrast</u>
same	different
alike	unlike
like	on the other hand
both	but
also	whereas

Step 1: Create a good **hook** to catch the reader.

**Can you imagine..... (some interesting fact from the lesson)*

**Could you live in a house as small as your living? Well many people in Japan do!*

Step 2: Write the **topic sentence** which lets the reader know what the paragraph is about- do

not use the pronoun 'I'- "I am going to tell you about . . ." **NO! NO! NO!**

**While the countries of Japan and the United States both have large populations, Japan's cities are much more crowded.*

**Japan and the United States both have crowded cities; however there are some differences in how they deal with their high population density.*

Step 3: **Compare** the population of both countries with two COMPLETE details about each. Be specific, don't just say "they're both countries, they both have apartments, etc."

**One way Japan and the United States are similar is . . . since they both . . .*

**Both Japan and the United States have . . . which means . . .*

**Like Japan which. . . , the United States also . . .*

Step 4: Write a **transition sentence**: lets the reader know you are moving to the differences:

**Although there are similarities between Japan and the United States, there are also differences.*

**While Japan and the United States are similar, they are also different.*

Step 5: **Contrast** the two climate regions you selected with two COMPLETE details about each. Again, be specific! Don't just say "Japan does this, but the US doesn't"

**In Japan . . . on the other hand, in the United States . . .*

**While Japan has . . . United States has . . .*

Step 6: Write a **concluding sentence** or ending sentence that restates the topic sentence:

**These are just a few of the similarities and differences between . . .*

**It is clear that there are many similarities and differences between . . .*

THE INFORMATION YOU INCLUDE ABOUT JAPAN MUST COME FROM YOUR NOTES AND OUR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION!

