**Start by asking and answering these three questions (*my example questions and answers are in italics*)**

**What two “subjects” are you comparing?**

*I want to compare soccer to hockey*

**Why do I want to compare and contrast these/What is my purpose?**

*My purpose is to explain why one of these sports is superior to the other in terms of viewing experience and entertainment value.*

**To accomplish my purpose, what should I focus on?**

*To accomplish my purpose, I will describe the likeness and differences between the experience of watching a soccer game vs. watching a hockey game, both in person and on television.*

**Combine your starter questions and answers into a single sentence:**

*I will write about the similarities and differences of watching soccer and hockey because I want to explain why hockey is the superior spectator sport.*

**Create your thesis statement:**

*Even though hockey and soccer are sports beloved by fans the world over, there are many difference in the viewing experience that make hockey the far superior spectator sport.*

Notice how useful the phrase “even though” is here. You can also try using the word “while”.

**Frames** for creating strong thesis statements in a compare and contrast essay. Note: These are more sophisticated and polished, but only if you remember that **your compare and contrast essay must have a purpose beyond creating a list of similarities and differences.**

**1: The differences (similarities) between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and they**

**(pronounced/striking)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in order to show that/how/why\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**(deserve/merit) (Investigation/scrutiny/examination)**

**2.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ some \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_similarities, the differences between \_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**(Although they have/Despite) (minor/superficial)**

**are \_(clear/remarkable/striking/pronounced)\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_(show/explain) why/how\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Compare and Contrast Transitions**

**Contrast:**

**A clear difference**

**But**

**Conflicting viewpoint**

**Despite**

**Even so**

**For all that**

**However**

**In another way**

**Larger**

**Nevertheless**

**On one hand**

**Pro**

**Rather**

**Slower**

**Still another**

**The antithesis of**

**Comparison:**

**In the same way**

**By the same token**

**Similarly**

**In like manner**

**Likewise**

**In similar fashion**

**Both:**

**By the same token**

**Conversely**

**Likewise**

**On the other hand**

**Rather**

**Similarly**

**Yet**

**However**

**Nevertheless**

**In contrast**