

Alternating and Dividing

There are two methods of writing a compare and contrast paper. In the **alternating** method, you compare and contrast two subjects point for point. In the **dividing** method, you make all of your points about the first subject; then you make all of your points about the second subject.



ALTERNATING

Dogs make better pets than cats. Once they are housebroken, dogs don't go to the bathroom in the house. With cats, you have to clean a litter box every day. You can take dogs with you to do things away from home. Cats can't go with you for walks around the neighborhood or to pet-friendly public places. Finally, dogs are wired to be human companions. Many cats are moody and can be aloof.

DIVIDING

Dogs make better pets than cats. Once they are housebroken, dogs don't go to the bathroom in the house. You can take dogs with you to do things away from home. Finally, dogs are wired to be human companions. With cats, you have to clean a litter box every day. Cats can't go with you for walks around the neighborhood or to pet-friendly public places. Finally, many cats are moody and can be aloof.

DIRECTIONS: Choose a topic that interests you. Make notes in preparation to contrast the two things. Then write two versions of a contrast paragraph. In the first, use the **alternating** method of contrasting. In the second, use the **dividing** method.

My Topic: _____