**Research Paper Benchmark 1: Comparison and Contrast**

1. **Identify the task**: Are you being asked to compare, contrast, or both?

*Writing Task (Due Tuesday)*: What would your critics say to each other if they met? After researching two peer-reviewed sources, compare and contrast the author’s perspectives. Support your claim with evidence from the text.

1. **Gather Evidence**: What are the key elements you should compare?

*Bridging reading to writing mini-task (due Monday):* After researching two quality sources with peer review, draw a Venn diagram that compares and contrasts the two sources. An online resource is posted if you would like to digitize it, but hand drawn diagrams are also welcome.

1. **Organize:** Should you discuss one text and then another or compare point by point?

*Establish a controlling idea:* A good thesis is a map to your paper; it clearly sets up a comparison and/or contrast and expertly lays out both the goals and organization for the response. (Directional clauses work well.)

*Set an overall structure:* Point by point usually reveals more than block format.

*Check paragraph structure:* Are paragraphs REAL? (Do they contain a reason, or topic sentence; evidence; analysis; and a link back to the thesis?)

1. **Check Transitions:** Is each point clearly introduced?

*Academic Integrity:* Have you given credit to your sources in the text on first reference? Each time you borrow an idea, is it clear to a reader where your critics begin and end? Are the critics distinct from each other and from your voice?

1. **Draw Conclusions:** What does this comparison and contrast reveal?