ANALOGY ESSAY

GENERAL OUTLINE

I. TITLE
II. INTRODUCTION
III. DIFFERENCES
IV. RESEMBLANCES
   - R. #1
   - R. #2
   - R. #3
   - R. #4
V. CONCLUSION
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GENERAL OUTLINE

I. TITLE:
- Identify the 2 subjects
- Identify their relationship
  - analogous, alike,
  - similar, resemble
- What is your analogy?!
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GENERAL OUTLINE

I. TITLE:
 o X Is like Y
   ■ format = like a SIMILE
   ■ X (your focus) should be the 1st word
   ■ capitalize “is” (verb)
   ■ don’t capitalize “like” (preposition)

 o Fast Food Is like Prostitution
 o A Drug Addiction Is like a Life Sentence
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GENERAL OUTLINE

II. INTRODUCTION:

- Introduces Subject X
  - the issue at hand, its status
  - perhaps through recent events, court cases, headlines

- Ends with your ANALOGY STATEMENT
  - Subject X is like Subject Y in terms of 1, 2, and 3.
  - Fast food is like prostitution due to its effects on the body, its initial price, and its long-term costs.
  - A drug addiction is like a life sentence in terms of its effects on family, friends, and society.
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GENERAL OUTLINE

III. DIFFERENCES:
- Admit the minor differences
  - “minor” in comparison to the resemblances
- One (1) paragraph
  - “Name” and “explain” briefly
  - Merely acknowledge them, recognize, concede, grant
- However, they are NOT the crux of your essay
  - Do NOT go into great detail
  - Thus, they do not make up half the essay
  - Thus, they are not as long as the resemblance section
  - Thus, they can be dealt with in a single paragraph
GENERAL OUTLINE

III. DIFFERENCES:

- Admitting the differences is necessary –
  - Helps build your ETHOS
    - You are proving you’ve thought this idea through
    - You are admitting the other side
    - You are confessing & addressing its vulnerability
    - You are showing that you have nothing to hide
      - Now your opponent cannot attack your argument from this angle because you have already discussed these issues.
III. DIFFERENCES:

- Admitting the differences is necessary –
  - Helps fortify a vulnerable rhetorical strategy
    - Susceptible because of these differences, because subjects rarely are perfect matches,
    - Protect your flank, shore up defenses, buttress
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GENERAL OUTLINE

IV-VII. RESEMBLANCES:

- This section is the **crux** of your essay
  - These resemblances between Subjects X&Y are the **purpose** of the paper
  - More **significant, important, relevant** than the differences
  - More **illustrative** of your argument
  - The majority/bulk of the Body deals with them
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GENERAL OUTLINE

IV-VII. RESEMBLANCES:

- Discuss in full
  - 1 resemblance per paragraph

- Emphatic Order:
  - Save the most significant resemblance for last
  - And label it as such, in a transition

See “paragraph structure” below
See “transitions” below
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PARAGRAPHS STRUCTURE

I. NAME
II. EXPLAIN
III. ILLUSTRATE
   - Y
   - X
IV. REITERATE
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PARAGRAPHS STRUCTURE

I. NAME:
- In a TOPIC SENTENCE, clearly identify the particular resemblance to be discussed in the paragraph.
- One resemblance between a life sentence and a drug addiction involves the missing of special events.

II. EXPLAIN:
- If necessary, briefly clarify the resemblance.
- Briefly (sentence or two)
- That is to say, In other words
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PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE

III. ILLUSTRATE:

- Illustrate the resemblance:
  - specific instances
  - the *longest, most important* paragraph part **
- \( Y = 1^{st} \)
- \( X = 2^{nd} \)
  - emphatic order
  - the position of focus, importance
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PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE

III. ILLUSTRATE:

- **Subject Y**: (always 1st)
  - the known
  - For example, with a life imprisonment sentence,
  - “Illustrate” how incarceration prevents a person from participating in the milestones of a child’s life.

- **Subject X**: (always 2nd)
  - the unknown, your focus
  - Be specific (specific instance) – esp. for X
  - For example, with a drug addiction,
  - “Illustrate” how addiction, too, prevents a person from “being there” for the child.
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PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE

IV. REITERATE:

- In a CLINCHER SENTENCE (Warrant Statement) repeat the resemblance.
- Basically, refer back to the Topic Sentence.
- Bring the paragraph full-circle.
- Don’t leave it open-ended.
- Perhaps transition to the next resemblance as well.
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TRANSITIONS

- Use transitions and transitional expressions
- Between sentences and between paragraphs
  - to enumerate Differences, Resemblances
    - additionally, likewise
  - to signal a switch in logical direction
    - on the other hand, however
  - to switch between subjects, from Subject Y to Subject X
    - likewise, similarly
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TRANSITIONS

- Transition to your Thesis, Analogy Statement
  - Thus, X is like Y in terms of …

- Transition to your Differences:
  - Despite the significance of the resemblances, some minor differences do exist and I would be remiss if I did not briefly discuss them.

- Transition from your Differences to your Resemblances:
  - When you do so, stress the significance of the resemblances in relation to the differences
  - (more important, significant, noteworthy, considerable, … )
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GENERAL OUTLINE

VIII. CONCLUSION:
- Repeat your Analogy Statement
- Repeat the resemblances
  - the “usual” Conclusion material
GENERAL OUTLINE

VIII. CONCLUSION:

- **Make clear your argument**
  - This is an argument paper.
  - You wrote this essay to argue for or against a particular issue.
  - This was NOT a mere exercise in finding resemblances between 2 unconnected ideas.
  - You used analogy as an argumentative tool.
  - Your argument is more than the fact that these 2 subjects share traits.
GENERAL OUTLINE

VIII. CONCLUSION:

- What are you trying to say about Subject X?
- What do readers gain from the connection?
  - What do they learn, understand, appreciate, or realize by relating X to Y?
- Do they understand Subject X better or appreciate it more?
- What is the argument behind your analogy?
- What are you arguing for or against?
- What point or position are you arguing?
- What is your point or position?
- If we think of X in terms of Y, or as Y, then what do we realize about X?
- “So what?!”
THE END
ANALOGY

QUESTIONS:
- What point are you trying to make about Subject X?
- What are you trying to prove or say about Subject X?
- What are the most significant traits about Subject X, those traits that illustrate your overall point?
- When you answer these questions, ask yourself what other act or belief shares those traits.
- What else “is like” Subject X?
- Subjects X&Y should share at least 3-4 resemblances.
  - *Certainly more similarities than differences.*
- Suppose your Subject X were some frustrating situation, and your argument behind the analogy were to argue against it – then you would list this situation’s negative traits and try to find some other activity just as negative or frustrating.
- Avoid clichés as your analogy.
- Avoid “descriptive” analogies that sound cute but have no depth.
**Marcus Vindictus:**  
- Don't you know your right flank from your left flank?

**Captain Mucus:**  
- I'm sorry sir, I flunked flank.

**Marcus Vindictus:**  
- You flunked flank? Get the flunk out of here!