

Rules for writing analogies:

An analogy is an extended simile or metaphor that compares two very unlike topics. Analogies can be written as comparison essays or comparison paragraphs. Analogies show the similarities between the two topics.

1. The analogy thesis sentence (for an essay) or topic sentence (for a paragraph) must be written as a simile or a metaphor. Thesis will be the last sentence of the introduction; topic sentence will be the first sentence of the paragraph.
2. Use either point by point or block patterns of organization when writing an analogy.
3. When selecting the two topics for an analogy, choose one that is more familiar/concrete and one that is less familiar/abstract. Usually the more concrete topic is used to explain the more abstract one. Most of the time, the concrete topic is discussed first and the abstract topic, second.
4. How to use analogies:
 - As introductions for papers where you want to show how two ideas are parallel.
 - To explain unknown/abstract concepts in terms familiar to or easily understood by your reader. For example, when explaining the storage pattern for a Macintosh computer, you might liken the hard drive icon to a large filing cabinet. When a person double clicks on the hard drive icon, the icon opens up to reveal folders or icons. These are similar to the drawers of the filing cabinet. Once each of these icons are opened, individual files or documents appear just as individual files or papers appear inside the drawers of a filing cabinet. Thus, the unknown is explained by comparison to the known. Analogies can be used effectively on tests when you are explaining new concepts you have studied or when you are instructing others.
5. Try it out.... Choose one of the following and write an analogy.
 - a. Life is like.....
 - b. Writing an essay is like.....
 - c. Driving a stick shift car is like....
 - d. Being 16 is like.....
 - e. (pick a simile of your own choice)