Write an outline for a comparison and contrast essay on picking apples

ChatGPT

I. Introduction

A. Brief overview of apple picking as a popular activity

B. Thesis statement: Apple picking can be compared and contrasted based on location, variety of apples available, and overall experience.

Instrutor Comment: The thesis sentence uses key words to show that the essay will be using a comparison/contrast pattern of development. And it identifies the points of comparison and contrast (location, apple variety, overall experience). But it’s not a strong thesis overall, because it doesn’t identify the two things actually being compared. From the outline, it seems as though those two things could be apple picking in rural vs. urban surroundings, since sections II and IV of the outline deal with that. But it’s not clear in the thesis. A thesis for a comparison/contrast essay always needs to identify the two things that are being compared.

II. Location

A. Description of apple orchards in rural areas

1. Serene and natural surroundings

2. Peaceful and relaxing atmosphere

B. Description of urban apple farms or city orchards

1. Convenient accessibility

2. Additional amenities and attractions

Instructor Comment: This section of the outline seems o.k. if the intent is to compare rural vs. urban apple picking. However, an “urban apple farm” is still a farm with trees, so the logic of the comparison is not totally clear. There are other, clearer, possibilities for a comparison/contrast essay on the topic of apple picking, e.g., first-time vs. seasoned pickers, personal vs. industrial picking, picking from full-size vs. miniature trees, etc.

III. Variety of Apples Available

A. Discussion of traditional apple varieties

1. Popular varieties such as Red Delicious and Granny Smith

2. Familiar flavors and characteristics

B. Discussion of heirloom or lesser-known apple varieties

1. Unique flavors and textures

2. Opportunity to discover new favorites

Instructor Comment: This section of the outline does not fit the focus of the rest of the outline and, if used, would harm the unity of an essay. It does not deal with the concept of apply *picking*. It does offer a comparison of traditional vs. heirloom apple varieties, but that’s a totally different essay.

IV. Overall Experience

A. Factors contributing to the experience in rural orchards

1. Outdoor activities (hayrides, corn mazes, etc.)

2. Connection to nature and agricultural heritage

B. Factors contributing to the experience in urban apple farms or city orchards

1. Community events and entertainment options

2. Modern amenities and facilities

Instructor Comment: This section goes back to the comparison of rural vs. urban apple picking. However, it’s weak in terms of logic, because of the assumptions it makes. Community events, entertainment options, and modern facilities can exist at rural locations, just as an urban location could offer information on agricultural heritage or even a hayride on a paved street.

V. Conclusion

A. Recap of the main points discussed

B. Restatement of the thesis

C. Final thoughts on the personal preference for apple picking locations and experiences.

Overall Analysis: The purpose of comparison and contrast is to delve into the similarities and differences between two items, people, places, etc. A key word is “delve” – an essay that compares and/or contrasts should go into detail so that a reader can get a full sense of similarities and differences between two things that are logical to compare. AI has chosen two things that are not fully logical to compare.

Also, this AI-generated sample deviates from traditional comparison and contrast structure. It appears to choose point-by-point organization. Point-by-point requires a unit of support and topic sentence for each point, and the same order under each point. The outline does that in sections II and IV, but deviates from this structure in section III.

So the usefulness of this AI-generated outline is more to point out some common errors that can be made in writing comparison/contrast essays, rather than to provide solid ideas for your own writing.