**Writing Comparison-Contrast Essays**

**Write the Lead Sentence**

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| Name: |  | Date: |  |

Experiment with leads for your essay using each strategy below. Read the examples for ideas. Then choose your favorite lead to start your essay.

1. Start with a fascinating question.

Would you rather be completely normal, with all the typical abilities and disabilities, or exceptional in one or two areas but impaired in others?

2. Start with a thoughtful quotation.

"Nobody realizes that some people expend tremendous energy merely to be normal."  
—Albert Camus

3. Provide an anecdote.

We've all been stuck on a slow bus, starting and stopping in heavy traffic, crammed with others just waiting to get to a destination. When the patent clerk Albert Einstein was stuck on such a bus, he imagined instead riding on a photon at the speed of light . . . and came up with the Special Theory of Relativity.

4. Make a shocking statement.

People with *synesthesia* process sound with the part of their brains meant to see pictures. As a result, they see music. When the rest of us hear a D major chord, they might see a bright blue mountain or a vibrantly orange rabbit.