

Español 1A
Composición #3

Dos generaciones.
Extensión: 2 páginas

In this composition, you will compare an aspect of life nowadays to the corresponding circumstances in your parents' or grandparents' day.

I. ANTES DE ESCRIBIR:

Paso 1: First, think about what topic you'd like to expand on as your point of your comparison. You may want to compare a major category, such as pastimes or the environment, or a subcategory, such as children's games or water pollution. Choose a topic that interests you and make sure you're willing to seek out the necessary vocabulary to talk about that topic. Feel free to see your instructor for suggestions and possible vocabulary lists. (Your instructor may ask you to hand in your own preliminary list of 10 new vocabulary items in Spanish with their English equivalents.) Here are some examples:

Los pasatiempos (pastimes), por ejemplo:
el baile y la música popular
los juegos o deportes que juegan los niños
el entretenimiento (entertainment) popular

...

La estructura de la familia:
la familia tradicional
las estructuras familiares contemporáneas

...

Lo demográfico:
el crecimiento o la explosión de la población
la gran migración de zonas rurales a zonas urbanas

...

El medio ambiente (the environment):
la contaminación del aire o del agua
el uso de los pesticidas
el efecto invernadero (the greenhouse effect)
el deterioro de la capa del ozono (deterioration of the ozone layer)

...

Otro tema interesante

...

...

...

Paso 2: La investigación: Next, do a little research. Talk to older relatives or do a little investigation on the web. Whether you do research in Spanish or English, be sure to take note of your sources and cite them very clearly in your essay. (If you consult the internet,

limit yourself to one or two articles and attach a copy when you hand in your first draft.)

Paso 3: La organización: Organize your ideas into an outline (**un esbozo** or **una esquema**). Your instructor may ask that you also turn in your outline when you turn in your first draft. Below is one possible organizational structure for your essay. Note that different grammatical structures may be necessary in different parts of your essay. For example:

- I. **Introducción:** Un contraste general y presentación de algunas diferencias básicas (**For making comparisons and contrasts, see vocabulary on p. 250 and structures on pp. 159 and 183 in your textbook (5th ed.), or on pp. 255, 163 and 189, respectively, in the 4th ed.**)
- II. **Elaboración A:** Una elaboración del fenómeno hoy en día (nowadays)
- III. **Elaboración B:** Una elaboración del fenómeno en el pasado (**describing the past, pp. 174-178**)
- IV. **Predicción:** ¿Cuál es tu opinión sobre el futuro del fenómeno que describes?
- V. **Conclusión:** Sugerencias (suggestions) o esperanzas (hopes) para el futuro (**expressions of impersonal obligation, p. 226**)

II. ¡A ESCRIBIR!

As you consider how you'll organize your composition, likewise consider ordering your ideas so that there is logical flow and continuity. Additionally, since you'll be discussing events in different time frames, be sure to use transitional words and phrases to link your descriptions:

al final	<i>at/in the end</i>	después de (que)	<i>after</i>
al mismo tiempo	<i>at the same time</i>	durante	<i>during</i>
al principio	<i>at the beginning</i>	entonces	<i>then, next</i>
de pronto	<i>suddenly</i>	tan pronto como	<i>as soon as</i>

B. Consider how you will conclude your composition. Here are some phrases that may be useful:

por eso / por esa razón	<i>for that reason</i>
a fin de cuentas/ al final/ al fin y al cabo	<i>in the end</i>
en resumen/ en total	<i>in summary</i>
para concluir	<i>to conclude</i>

III. DESPUÉS DE ESCRIBIR

Go back and revise your composition for the following elements:

- topic clearly stated
- supporting description given
- clear and logical organization

Then edit your composition for the following elements:

- use of the past tense
- agreement (subject-verb, noun-adj., etc.)
- spelling and accents!