Understanding Assignment Titles

**ANALYZE:** Describe the various parts of the topic and explain how they are connected, how they work together, or whether they work together.

**COMPARE:** Describe the major similarities between two or more things. Give details and examples to support your judgement.

**CONTRAST:** Describe the major differences between two or more things. Give details and examples to support your judgement.

**COMPARE AND CONTRAST:** Make a list of points to compare and contrast. For each point, discuss the similarities and differences giving details and examples to support your judgement.

**DEFINE:** Explain the meaning of the term(s) or topic(s).

**DESCRIBE:** Give a detailed account of something. Mention highlights and major aspects in order to give a clear picture.

**DISCUSS:** Give points for and against the subject and draw a conclusion from the points presented. Give details and examples to support each pro and con. Write about the various opinions you have been reading or studying about the subject.

**ELABORATE ON:** Write about the statement or quotation. Explain it in more detail and then state your point of view.

**EVALUATE:** To assess the worth or value of something. Decide on criteria for making a judgement of the topic. Give an opinion supported by evidence, examples and details. Give reasons for your judgement.

**EXAMINE:** Divide into parts and describe each part critically.

**EXPLAIN:** Show the causes or reasons for the topic. Write out in detail: make clearer.

**ILLUSTRATE:** Use a figure, a diagram or specific examples to clarify the meaning.

**LIST:** Present a group of items in the required order.

**SUMMARIZE:** Give the main points, omitting details.