Compare and Contrast Two Poems

Compare and contrast two or more poems with a common theme:
- Use MLA format (use 12 point font, page numbers, and a works cited page)
- Write 1300-1500 words
Step 1:

Find a basis for comparison and contrast. For example:

- Use of language (diction, syntax, etc.)
- Use of poetic devices (irony, imagery, symbolism, alliteration, assonance, etc.)
- Rhyme scheme (iambic, anapestic, etc.)
- Tone or mood
- Goals or general messages of the poems
- Rhythm (form, meter, sound)
Choose a logical order:

- **Block Method** - Ideas are blocked into categories and paragraphs. Discuss everything that needs to be said about one poem in one or several paragraphs, then discuss the other.

- **Side-by-Side Method** – Ideas are placed side-by-side, discussing both poems as they relate to a particular point. Both poems are discussed together.
Step 2: Block or Side-by-Side

- Introduction
- Body
  - Poem 1
    - Idea A
    - Idea B
    - Idea C
  - Poem 2
    - Idea A
    - Idea B
    - Idea C
- Conclusion

- Introduction
- Body
  - Idea A
    - Poem 1
    - Poem 2
  - Idea B
    - Poem 1
    - Poem 2
  - Idea C
    - Poem 1
    - Poem 2
- Conclusion
Step 3:

- **Use transitional words and phrases to move from one poem to another.**

  - **Compare:**
    - In the same way
    - Likewise
    - Similarly
  
  - **Contrast:**
    - Unlike
    - In contrast
    - However
    - But
Step 4:

Double check your work!

- Did you include enough similarities and differences?
- Does your essay have a logical order?
- Did you use enough transitional words?
- Did you get someone else to proofread your essay?
- Did you use cite using MLA formatting?