



Name: _____

English II: Compare and Contrast Essay

Throughout the Darkness Within unit, we have read a variety of texts and discussed their similarities and differences. Now, it will be YOUR turn to pick two subjects of your choice to compare and contrast in a well-constructed essay. This essay is different than any other written assignment we have done this year; therefore, it will be important to pay attention to the compare/contrast format taught in class in order to properly complete this assignment.

Requirements for this Assignment:

- The final draft must be typed in MLA format
- 12 point font, Times New Roman
- Double Spaced
- Appropriate, Creative Title
- 2-3 complete pages
- Your essay should be at least five thorough, well-developed paragraphs
- Your essay should follow the point by point compare/contrast format taught in class
- Your essay needs to be submitted to turnitin.com by 10:00 PM on the day it is due

Although you have freedom to select your own subjects to compare and contrast, teacher approval is required. In addition, the subjects must be school appropriate and differ from your persuasive speech topics. Be careful when choosing your subjects! You need to compare and contrast multiple aspects of these subjects, so make sure to choose subjects that have legitimate points to argue. We will brainstorm ideas in class, but do not hesitate to ask if you need help deciding on two subjects.

Last Name 1
Your Name
Teacher's Name
English II
6 February 2012
Title

There should only be one space between the heading and title. Only press enter once after typing in the date!

← →

Writing Timeline

Wednesday, 2/6: Intro to writing assignment; structure

Thursday, 2/7: Independent work day

Monday, 2/11: Full Rough Draft Due /
Peer-editing of drafts

Tuesday, 2/12: Final draft of paper due **

**Must be printed out prior to the start of the period. If you do not have a hard copy of the essay at the beginning of the period on the due date, your essay will be considered late and will automatically start at a "C". If you are absent on this day, you are still expected to turn in/email me a copy of your essay. If I do not receive it, the essay will be considered late.

You must also submit your essay to turnitin.com in order to check for plagiarism by 10:00 PM on Monday, February 13.

How to Effectively Develop a Point by Point Compare/Contrast Essay

Point-by-Point comparison and contrast uses a separate section or paragraph for each point that you decide to write about. In this structure, you explain one point of comparison before moving to the next point. Here is the basic outline if you choose this strategy:

I. Introduction

- ✓ Use an attention getter to hook your audience by enticing them with interesting information about your subjects.
- ✓ Provide background information that describes the purpose behind the comparison. You should provide a general overview of what will be discussed throughout the essay.
- ✓ Develop a thesis statement that clearly lists the main idea of the essay that will be presented and the three points you will be using to compare and contrast your subjects.

II. All Body Paragraphs – Each body paragraph will develop a different point of comparison or contrast between the subjects. Each paragraph should include:

- ✓ Topic Sentence that introduces the point you will be comparing/contrasting in the paragraph
- ✓ 2nd and 3rd topic sentences include transitional statements
- ✓ Specific examples regarding the subjects based on that paragraph's point alone
- ✓ BOTH similarities and differences should be addressed regarding each point within each paragraph
- ✓ Concluding statement that reemphasizes the importance of the paragraph and provides an overall conclusion about the point that was compared and contrasted – the so what?

III. Conclusion

- ✓ Restated thesis statement that lists the subjects that were presented and the three points you used to compare and contrast your subjects – This should be written differently than your original thesis.
- ✓ Emphasize subjects brought up throughout your essay: a final compare and contrast of the subjects. What final argument can be made about these two subjects?
- ✓ Strong concluding statement that provides an epiphany regarding your subjects. What should the reader understand about the subjects after reading your essay? What is the importance of this discussion?

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