

Comparison/Contrast Essay

A major portion of literary analysis requires the critic to compare and contrast common elements within genres.

- Compare the chambermaid from “The Goose Girl” and the unnamed narrator in “The Tell-Tale Heart.” Despite the different roles in their stories, how are their characterizations similar?
- *Or* compare the young men from “Rappaccini’s Daughter” and “Godfather Death.” How are their situations and actions similar?

DUE: Thursday 07.28.11. Upload to turnitin.com and provide print version.

OBJECTIVES

1. Isolate a strong thesis statement regarding the two stories. *For example:*
“Ironically, both the Waiting-Maid in ‘The Goose Girl’ and the Young Doctor from ‘Godfather Death’ utilize the same aggressive characteristics.”
2. Remember you want to feature your topic throughout the essay. Each paragraph must defend your main focus. Be sure to support the thesis with secondary evidence details from each story.
3. When writing the first draft, be sure subsequent paragraphs include topic sentences relating to your thesis.
4. Create an interesting, intricate introduction which clearly shows the focus of your essay and leads the reader into subsequent paragraphs.
5. Be sure each new paragraph includes a strong transitional phrase.
6. Use five or more sentences per paragraph.
7. Use the correct MLA essay format outlined in *SF Writer*. Show Works Cited page.
8. Essay Length: 3 or more pages, stapled.
9. Keep in mind, you do *not* want to spend most of your paper comparing or contrast obvious characteristics: I already know there are many differences and many similarities between the characters. }
10. *Be sure to proof your work.*

assignment 01

Comparison/Contrast Essay

Be sure to consult your copy of *SF Writer* from English 1301 for any documentation or research question.

DUE: Thursday 07.28.11. Upload to turnitin.com and provide print version.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

1. Be sure to use signal phrases and proper In-text Notes. In this assignment's case, the names of authors are less important to mention in parenthetical notations. Page numbers are more important. See appropriate models listed for book entries beginning on page 302.

example:

In the fairy tale "Godfather Death," the Grimm brothers establish a personified figure of death, who is often described with human features. He is shown walking "with withered legs" (209).

2. When quoting dialogue, be sure to punctuate details correctly.

example:

The Grimm Brothers show show the mother-figure giving her daughter a bloody cloth: "The old queen said, 'Dear child, preserve this carefully, it will be of service to you on your way' " (405).

3. If quoting more than four lines of text in your paper, use an indented block quote.

See annotated example on page 337 of SF Writer.

4. All work cited entries must follow proper MLA guidelines, alpha-order by last name of author.

example:

Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm. "The Goose-Girl." *The Complete Grimm's Fairy Tales*. Trans. James Stern. New York: Random House, 1972. Print.

assignment 01