

# 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” (Giovanni) and “Godfather Death” (the Young Doctor). How are their situations and actions similar?

PART 1 DUE: FRIDAY 02.24.12: PRINT VERSION ONLY.

PART 2 DUE: Monday 03.05.12 uploaded to turnitin.com.

This project is divided into two stages. Part one consists of detailing a brief, preliminary plan in academic terms which will propose your initial ideas and show a strong, working thesis.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Isolate a tentative thesis regarding your choice of the two supplied stories.

*For example:*

Ironically, in two Grimm Brothers’ stories both the Chambermaid in the “The Goose Girl” and the Young Doctor from “Godfather Death” seem to have similar aggressive characteristics.

- This shows the instructor you have a plan of attack; likewise this does not represent the final version of a thesis, but does open up possible discussion and necessary revisions.
2. In 100 words, or more, propose a brief summary of what evidence you can provide from your recent readings of the texts. What do you view as your most important evidence? What defense immediately comes to mind? Quote an example.
  3. Print out using standard MLA guidelines. (*See on-line template provided.*)

# assignment 01-part 1

# 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? Why?
- *Or* compare the young men from “Rappaccini’s Daughter” (Giovanni) and “Godfather Death” (the Young Doctor). How are their situations and actions similar? Why?

PART 2 DUE: Monday 03.05.12 uploaded to turnitin.com.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Isolate a strong thesis statement regarding the two stories.
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.**
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-part 2

# Comparison/Contrast Essay

Be sure to consult your copy of *SF Writer* or *A Writer's Reference* from English 1301 for any documentation or research questions.

## 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 in the *SFW* pages 302 or in *AWR* on pages 382-385.

*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 examples on page 337 of SFW or page 382 in AWR.*

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

*example:*

Smith, Robert and Jean. "Complexities." *The Complete Story*.

Trans. James Stern. New York: Random House, 1972. Print.

# assignment 01-part 2