

# 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 Montresor from “The Cask of Amontillado.” Despite the different roles in their stories, how are their characterizations similar?
- *Or* compare the behavior of the male scientists in “The Birthmark” and in the “Godfather Death.” How are their reactions similar?

DUE: 10.06

## 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. 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. Use five or more sentences per paragraph.
6. Use the correct MLA essay format outlined in *Bedford* beginning on page 611.
7. Create 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 contrasting 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 *Bedford* from English 1301 for any documentation or research question.

## ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

1. Be sure to use signal phrases and proper parenthetical citations.

In this assignment's case, the names of authors are less important to mention in parenthetical notations. See item #1 for book entries on page 518.

*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 correctly. See *Bedford* item 37c, p. 394: "Use single quotation marks to enclose a quotation within a quotation." (or in this case dialogue).

*example:*

The story relates how the old Queen gives her daughter a cloth with drops of blood: "She gave them to her daughter, saying, 'Take good care of these. They 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. These do not require double quotation marks. See *Bedford* item 37b, p. 393.

4. All work cited entries must follow proper MLA guidelines.

*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