

Assignment 2: MLA Style Comparison/Contrast Essay

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

Full paper DUE: Tuesday 11/25, in Turnitin.com, before class

- Compare the chambermaid in “The Goose Girl” with the unnamed narrator in “The Tell-Tale Heart.”
Despite the different roles in their stories, how are their characterizations similar?
Argue the point that the Chambermaid is equally a psychotic individual as the unnamed narrator.
- Compare the American in “Hills Like White Elephants” with John in “The Yellow Wallpaper.”
Argue the point that both men are knowingly belittling their partners for personal gains.
- Compare the narrations in both William Faulkner’s “A Rose for Emily” with Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Tell-Tale Heart.” *Argue the point they are equally unreliable providing crucial information, yet the reading audience gains further insight into the plot developments.*
- **Wild Card:** Propose your own pairing of readings with a viable discussion.
Talk with me to determine possibilities by November 04, during class.

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 detailed evidence from each story.
3. When writing the first draft, be sure resulting paragraphs include topic sentences relating to your thesis. As a result: use at least one quote per body paragraph from primary or secondary resources.
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 *A Writer’s Reference*.
8. Provide **Works Cited** page.
9. Find six critical essays (three per author) for secondary references.
10. **Essay Length: 1,250 words, plus Works Cited Page.**
11. Keep in mind you do want to avoid clichéd writing:
I already know there are “many differences and many similarities” between the two characters.
12. *Be sure to proof your work.*

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Be sure to consult your copy of *Rules for Writers* for any documentation or research questions you may have.

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 notation.

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. *Bedford* item 37c states:

"Use single quotation marks to enclose a quotation within a quotation" (p. 394) (or 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.
4. All work cited entries must follow proper MLA guidelines.
5. Based on characterization, action, and motivation of central players in a story, multiple approaches can be utilized in a critical research paper. Likewise, with a comparison/contrast approach, numerous ideas are developed between analyses of principle actors and plot development.

Characters: Unnamed Narrator || Chambermaid/False Bride

Key words:

perception/reality	irony	split personality	mental illness
greed	revenge	pride	dominant/ passive roles
guilt	setting	good vs. evil	working class/noble class
identity	punishment	violence/morbidly	personification of evil

Characters: The American || Young Doctor

Key words:

lust	love	perception/reality	perfection
symbolism	portrayal of nature	portrayal of death	setting analysis
appearances	passive/aggressive	fable/allegory	pride/ego
control	mortality	morality	innocence/experience