

## **MLA Research Paper**

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

**Word Count: 1,250**

### **Topics:**

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- Compare the chambermaid in “The Goose Girl” with the unnamed narrator in Edgar Allan Poe’s “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 male characters in Ernest Hemingway’s “Hills Like White Elephants” with James Joyce’s story of “Eveline.” *Argue how the female characters are similarly being manipulated by the men in their stories: the American, Eveline’s father and Frank.*
- 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.*
- Compare the protagonist in James Joyce’s “Eveline” with Emily in William Faulkner’s “A Rose for Emily.” *Argue the point that both women are essentially betrayed by their individual societies, as well as by their fathers.*
- Compare the small-town society depicted in William Faulkner’s “A Rose for Emily” with Gabriel García Márquez “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings.” *Argue the point the authors equally establish symbolic connections between isolated communities and the world-at-large.*
- **Wild Card:** Propose your own pairing of readings with a viable discussion.  
Talk with me to determine possibilities by March 29, during class.

### **Reference Materials:**

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1-3 physical or digital books (primary: course textbook or supplemental handouts)

5 (or more) articles from school databases (secondary)

- resources must be used in the paper at least once

### **The project is divided into three stages:**

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**Part one** consists of providing an introduction with formal academic terms, which will propose your initial ideas and show an organized approach to your argument.

- use a **deductive** introduction paragraph establishing a **thesis** statement.

**Part two** consists of an **Annotated Bibliography** explaining the usefulness of each entry.

**Part three** provides the full document.

### **Due Dates:**

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- Tuesday, April 5 Introduction paragraph with closing thesis due, printed  
Tuesday, April 12 Annotated Bibliography with six secondary resources, printed  
Tuesday, April 19 Full document due in Turnitin.com, before 11:59 PM

**Keep in mind:** the three scores will be averaged together for the full MLA score.

### **Objectives**

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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 (story) or secondary (critics) 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 *Bedford*.
8. Provide Works Cited page.
9. Find six critical essays (three per author) for secondary references.
10. Keep in mind you do want to avoid clichéd writing:  
I already know there are “many differences and many similarities” between the two characters.
11. *Be sure to proof your work.*

### **Additional Items of Importance**

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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.

### **Thematic Analysis**

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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: The American || Young Doctor**

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#### **Key words:**

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