

## **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 narration techniques utilized in both Edgar Allan Poe's short story "The Tell-Tale Heart" with T. S. Eliot's long poem "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock." *Argue the point they are equally unreliable providing crucial information, yet the reading audience gains further insight into the plot developments and full understanding of the displayed persona's personality.*

### **Reference Materials:**

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1-3 physical or digital books (primary: course textbook or supplemental handouts)  
4 (or more) articles from school databases (secondary)

### **The project is divided into two 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** provides the full document.

### **Due Dates:**

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Friday, May 27	Introduction paragraph with closing thesis due, printed before end of class
Tuesday, May 31	Full document due in Turnitin.com, before 11:59 PM

### **Objectives**

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1. Isolate a strong thesis statement regarding the two works.
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.
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 four critical essays (two per topic) 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.

Use single quotation marks to enclose a quotation within a quotation (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