

Compare & Contrast Essay

Your second formal assignment for this course is to write a brief paper comparing or contrasting some aspect of two texts we have or will read in this course. You may choose to analyze *how* the texts engage a similar theme (e.g. what strategies the texts employ to convey their messages) or you might write about how they use some feature of style, such as tone, figurative language (metaphor, simile, or symbolism), imagery, character, or setting, and so on to produce certain effects.

Your analysis should be 4-5 pages (1200-1500 words). This assignment must be in MLA format; type, double-space, and put your paper in a 12-point font, with 1" margins. Also, be sure to use citations, and staples your pages!

For further information on ways to approach writing a compare and contrast essay, please refer to these notes adapted from the Purdue University OWL (Online Writing Lab) site:

Strategy:

1. Find three or four elements from the texts upon which to base your comparison.
2. Examine possible connections and determine a thesis.
3. Base your outline around the elements you've chosen, remembering to give equal coverage to each side.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/713/02/>

There are also some great links to sites with strategies and examples on the Baruch College Writing Center's Online Writing Guides. Scroll down and click on the "Compare and Contrast" link. You will also find information on MLA formatting guidelines here:

<http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/writingcenter/OnlineWritingGuides.htm>

Due dates:

5.8: Peer review session one. Bring two copies of the first draft of your essay.

5.13: Peer review session two. Bring one copy of the second draft of your essay.

5.15: The final draft is due.