

COMPARE/ CONTRAST ESSAY

The purpose of the compare/ contrast paper is to demonstrate your elevated understanding of the literature we have studied this year through investigating common themes across two of those works that are admittedly from different periods and regions. The compare/contrast essay is just that: BOTH a comparison AND a contrast of two individual works. It is a comparison paper because you will delineate an element that is common to two works. It is a contrast paper because that element is presented differently in each of the works and, most likely, for different reasons.

You will choose two of the following three works on which to write your compare/ contrast paper: *The Stranger*, by Albert Camus; *Crime and Punishment*, by Fyodor Dostoevsky; *Like Water for Chocolate*, by Laura Esquivel. The key to this assignment will be, of course, the element (theme, symbol, characterization, etc.) you choose to address, because, remember, you MUST elevate your discussion to the level of purpose. In other words, what are the authors doing with the presentation of the element in their respective works?

NOTE:

- You are only choosing ONE element for comparison. Do NOT attempt to discuss more than that.
- You MUST choose from the above list of works.
- The finished product cannot be more than 1500 words.
- You MUST include textual evidence, and it is suggested that you incorporate quotes in a variety of ways (paraphrased, direct quotes, block quotes).

Perhaps students have the most anxiety about the structure of the C/C essay. There are a variety of ways in which to structure an academic comparison/ contrast, but here is the structure that I have found works the best (TOTAL PARAGRAPHS: at least 6):

A. INTRODUCTION: This will be much the same as you are used to writing, though the thesis statement will obviously present the element of comparison present in both works and an indication of their differing effects/ results in each.

B. BODY:

1 Paragraph: The presentation of the element in work #1.

1 Paragraph: The presentation of the element in work #2.

1 Paragraph: The effect/ purpose/ result (“so what”) of the element in work #1

1 Paragraph: The effect/ purpose/ result (“so what”) of the element in work #2

Or, alternately:

1 Paragraph: The presentation of the element in work #1

1 Paragraph: The effect/ purpose/ result (“so what”) of the element in work #1

1 Paragraph: The presentation of the element in work #2

1 Paragraph: The effect/ purpose/ result (“so what”) of the element in work #2

C. CONCLUSION

Essays will be graded using the same rubric as unit essays. You will receive one grade for mechanics (50 pts.), one grade for structure (50 pts.), and a grade for content (50 pts.)

OUTLINE PLANNER- COMPARE/ CONTRAST PAPER (IB ASSIGNMENT 1)

INTRODUCTION:

Novels/ authors:

Element to be compared/ contrasted in both novels:

Thesis Statement:

BODY:

Body Paragraph 1:

Body Paragraph 2:

Body Paragraph 3:

Body Paragraph 4:

CONCLUSION: