

Comparison and Contrast Essay

For this essay, you will compare and contrast two fantasy or science fiction books that you read in your reading class (choices include *The Ear, the Eye and the Arm*, *The Dark Is Rising*, *Tuck Everlasting*, or *A Wrinkle in Time*). Your task upon completion of the reading is to compare and contrast a **minimum of three** of the following topics from the two books: Main characters, setting, mood, conflict, plot, theme, authors' styles, imagery, or tone.

You will follow the writing process, and Mrs. H-B will guide you through the steps in language arts. The basic steps will include 1) brainstorming ideas; 2) organizing ideas using a Venn diagram; 3) writing a rough draft; 4) self- and peer-editing; 5) making revisions; 6) writing a final draft; 7) publishing your paper on your web page.

Here is how your paper should be laid out:

1. **Introduction:** This is a short paragraph (3 – 6 sentences) that reveals the **general** topics you will cover in your essay (see choices above). This paragraph should not include details; rather, it should consist only of general statements about what is to come in your paper.
 - A. **Use third person** (a detached style with no references to yourself that tells **about** people or things). Use pronouns such as *he, him, his, she, her, hers, it, its, they, them, their, and theirs*. **Do not use first person** (*I, me, my, mine, we, us, our, ours*) unless you are quoting something from text.
 - B. Do not offer your opinion or ideas. Instead, state everything as if it is a fact, and leave all references to yourself out of your writing.
2. **Body:** Each paragraph following the introduction should relate directly to one of the three choices you made above.
 - A. If you choose to compare and contrast **characters, tone, and plot** between your two books, you would write **a minimum of one paragraph for each of the following:**
 - a. Similarities between the two main characters
 - b. Differences between the two main characters
 - c. Similarities between tones in the two books
 - d. Differences between tones in the two books
 - e. Similarities between plots of the two books
 - f. Differences between plots of the two books
 - B. It is advisable, however, to write more than one paragraph for each of the above to ensure adequate coverage and discussion of the topic.
 - C. Your discussion must go beyond the obvious. It should contain abstract ideas whenever possible.
 - D. You must discuss **at least three similarities and three differences for each of the three topics you choose to analyze** (characters, setting, plot, conflict, etc.).
3. **Conclusion:** This is the final paragraph in which you tie everything together by reemphasizing the major points made in your paper. Remember, use third person only.

You are expected to use correct spelling, capitalization, coordination, and subordination. You must use third person only. Your pronoun references must be clear, and you must use complete sentences. Additionally, your paper must be well organized, must stay on the subject, and must employ a tone which is appropriate for your audience. Remember to avoid slang, contractions, and abbreviations. Numbers ten and under (for example, *one, two, three, four*, etc.) must be written out. If you need help with any of the above items, please ask for it! It is probably also a good idea to look at your Connections Project to make sure that you do not make the same mistakes again. Please see the attached rubric for details on how you will be graded.

Your paper should be 3 – 5 typed and double spaced pages. Use 12 point Times or Times New Roman font. The final draft of your comparison and contrast essay is due on Friday, December 6, 2002. If you do not have access to a computer outside of school, or if you cannot email your final draft to Mrs. H-B, you must let her know **immediately** by checking the appropriate items listed below. Sign, fill out, and return the acknowledgement of receipt of this project description to Mrs. H-B tomorrow.

I have read and understand the requirements for the Comparison and Contrast essay that is due to Mrs. Huelsman-Bell on Friday, December 6, 2002. I understand that my final draft must be typed and emailed to Mrs. Huelsman-Bell. If I do not have access to a word processor and/or email, Mrs. Huelsman-Bell will work with me to determine an alternative way to present and/or submit my work.

Student Signature Date

Parent Signature Date

Please check all that apply below:

- _____ I have access to a word processor outside of school.
- _____ I have access to email outside of school.
- _____ I **do not** have access to a word processor outside of school.
- _____ I **do not** have access to email.