

Brief Guide to Writing Comparative Essay

TOPIC: You will be given the topic of the essay you are to write. You may be asked to compare theme, characters, or conflict).

BRAINSTORM: The first thing you should do is brainstorm everything you know about each piece as it relates to the topic and then look for connections that show similarities and differences. Use your planning space to list down thoughts on each piece.

DEVELOP A THESIS: The thesis statement will come from the brainstorming and the question itself. Look at your list and determine if there is anything interesting about the similarities and differences of each piece and jot your ideas in your planning space.

ORGANIZE THE ESSAY: The introduction of the essay should mention both pieces and end with a strong and clearly defined thesis statement.

Five Paragraph (side by side)
P1: Introduction - Thesis statement and brief outline of the examples you will discuss.
P2: Discuss and give supporting details for the first example
P3: Discuss and give supporting details for the second example
P4: Discuss and give supporting details for the third example
P5: Conclusion - include final summing up of the examples and restate your thesis.

Be sure as you write the essay that you follow the organized structure of comparison and contrast and give details and examples to support the similarities and differences you have chosen.