

Comparative Essay: Overview & Submission Requirements

ESSAY PROMPT

Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress* and Hawthorne's "The Celestial Railroad" both depict the journey of a man to the Celestial City. Many common characters, places, and events occur in both stories. Compare these allegories, making sure to point out both similarities and differences and explain why these comparisons matter.

WRITING A COMPARATIVE ESSAY

A literary comparative essay notes the similarities and differences between two works of literature and makes an arguable point about why those similarities and/or differences matter. It's not enough to only state the factual differences. That would be an informative or expository essay. A literary essay must **serve a persuasive purpose** which is to argue how the similarities and/or differences make an impact.

Assignment #1 (in class): Thesis Statement and Introduction

Develop a thesis statement in class.

The thesis must be only **one** sentence that (1) mentions both stories, (2) compares and contrasts, and (3) presents an arguable point. It must use strong, clear wording and may not contain any be verbs.

Write the introduction:

Choose a Hook (statement, quote, question).

Write a transition statement to attach the hook to your essay.

Add 2-3 background info sentences including the full names of both authors and the title of both stories (be careful- italicize *The Pilgrim's Progress* because it is a book, and use quotation marks for "The Celestial Railroad" because it is a short story. You can show italics by underlining when handwriting, but add a note to italicize when you type!

Finish with your thesis statement. Edit the thesis to make it flow with the rest of your introduction.

Assignment #2 (at home- parent rubric needed):

Type the Introduction into an MLA formatted paper. Work on it with your teacher (your parent) and have them suggest edits. Correct, and have them check your corrections again to make sure no new errors have occurred. Your parent should complete the rubric to make sure that all components of an introduction are present. Submit to turnitin.com and bring a hard copy along with the signed rubric to class. Deductions will be made if either part is missing.

Assignment #3: Corrected Introduction and Body Paragraph #1 – parent rubric needed

Make any requested corrections to the Introduction from the last assignment, and add the first body paragraph. We will have talked through the format in class, and you should be comfortable with what you will be arguing.

Make sure to include these 8 sentences:

- 1) Topic Sentence (no be verbs- broad idea of what the paragraph will be about- the commonalities)
- 2) Assertion 1 (first statement that is a little more focused and provable)
- 3) Quote- Use story context to introduce (blend) your quote. Use proper quotation marks and punctuation and include the citation for the quote. The first quote should be from one story and the second from the other.
- 4) Commentary: Why does this quote prove your assertion? If you asserted that Christian feels the weight of his burden since he has to carry it, how does your quote prove that? Does it describe the weight? Does it tell why he wants to lose it? Does it give you any other info? Avoid saying 'This proves that' in any form. Instead, talk directly about the information. Focus on why it matters to your argument.
- 5) Assertion 2: Use a transition word into this assertion- something that shows a compare/contrast idea (However, In Contrast, Alternatively, Although, Conversely, Despite, Even though, In spite of, Nevertheless, On the Contrary, On the other hand, Unlike)
The second assertion should address the other story.
- 6) Quote- blend with story context, correct citation- no sentence should start with a quote!
- 7) Commentary (see above)
- 8) Conclusion sentence: Tie up your whole topic, not just the second idea. Re-read your topic sentence and address it in light of what you just proved.

Parents should check this Body Paragraph against the '1st Body Paragraph Rubric', sign, and return with a hard copy of the assignment.

Assignment #4: First Draft with all pieces present: Introduction, 3 body paragraphs, conclusion, Works Cited Page and 4 Parent Rubrics: 2nd Body Paragraph, 3rd Body Paragraph, Conclusion and Works Cited Rubrics

Make corrections to the first body paragraph, and then apply those same things when you write the second and third body paragraphs. Remember to transition between paragraphs! Parents should use the 2nd and 3rd body paragraph rubrics to check each one.

Add your Conclusion: Restate your main point from your thesis, without actually using the same sentence. Remember, you have already made your point, so you need to approach it from that direction. It should not sound like the start of a new paper! Summarize the main points you made (look back at your paragraphs/assertions) but do not re-argue or give new information. Conclude with application to real life, lessons learned, look to the future, etc. Consider revisiting your hook and answering the question you asked, or commenting on that idea as it relates to your paper. Remember, no first person, even here! You can say things like ‘the reader’ or ‘one knows’, but not ‘you’ or ‘we’.
Parents should use the Conclusion Parent Rubric to check the conclusion.

Works Cited:

The last page of your essay should be titled Works Cited (centered with no punctuation or special things like underlining or italics).

You will still have your last name and page number in the top right, but the page will not need the full heading on the left.

You will have two entries this time, so the title is ‘Works’, not ‘Work’.

We will learn the proper entry in class, so get with a classmate if you miss it!

Parents should use the Works Cited Rubric to check and sign.

Drafts should be free of editing errors. Drafts that have not been edited properly will be returned and must be corrected for a late grade.

***Bring two copies to class- one to submit (with the 4 parent rubrics stapled behind it) and one for a peer review. You will also need to submit it to Turnitin.com.**

Assignment #5: SECOND DRAFT- Parent Rubric needed: Correct according to the feedback from the First Draft, recheck with a parent and submit in class **in a folder** with the graded First Draft and the **Second Draft Parent Rubric**. Uncorrected drafts will not be accepted, and the assignment will need to be turned in late.

Assignment #6: FINAL DRAFT – Parent Rubric Needed

Edit your final essay draft

Step 1: Following the tutor feedback on the second draft, make the necessary edits and revisions.

Step 2: Work with your parent-teacher to read and revise your draft. Keep making the necessary edits and changes until all of items marked by the tutor and on the Final Draft Parent Rubric are complete and correct.

Step 3: Read through your full essay one more time – OUT LOUD. If satisfied, you have now completed the final draft and are ready to submit.

Submit your essay as follows:

- In class, submit a **folder** containing a printed copy with the completed and signed Parent Rubric stapled to the back. The graded First Draft and Second Draft should be on the left side of the folder, and the new Final Draft should be on the right.
- Upload to Turnitin by class time on the due date

This page wants to be a part of this essay, so I'm just saying here how proud I am of your hard work! Keep striving to do your best for the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.
Colossians 3:23
Mrs. Champagne