

ENGL 1302: Compare-Contrast Essay

Minimum Requirements

Length: 3-5 pages, not including Works Cited page

Style: Essay needs to conform to MLA standards, including double spacing in Times New Roman font, and must include a Works Cited page with correct in-text (parenthetical) citations for all quotes, paraphrases, and/or summaries.

Sources: Four total sources: Both songs (one source for each song) and two other sources that critique, analyze, or discuss the songs (one source for each song).

Due Dates

Peer Review One: Hard copy to class, First class of Week 5 (2/8 – 2/12/2016)

First Draft: Submitted online, Friday, (2/12/2016)

Final Draft: Safe Assign on eCampus, Friday, (2/19/2016)

Remember, you must turn in the first draft to turn in the final draft.

Purpose and Learning Objectives

The purpose of this assignment is to practice analysis and critical thinking skills. Furthermore, you will practice your annotating and note taking skills while contemplating an educational concept. You must use your critical thinking and analysis skills when coming up with an educational that you will explain in formal register. Additionally, you will also prove to me that you can write a thesis statement that is your interpretation of the educational essay. Writing and eloquent written expression are vital for a successful future. You will express all of these in this assignment.

Comparison-contrast essays can serve a variety of purposes, and develop a variety of tones as a result. One purpose is evaluation--trying to see which of two or more items is the best, or the most desirable, or whatever. With this kind of purpose, comparison often stresses the advantages of one item and the disadvantages of the other, treating the items as if they are in competition

with each other. Sometimes the tone may become almost argumentative, as if the writer is trying to "prove" that his judgment or evaluation is correct. Some writers, though, manage to remain neutral or objective in this kind of comparison, as if it doesn't matter to them which of the items comes out best.

Another purpose of comparison-contrast is understanding--trying to get a clearer picture or better appreciation of items, events or people, by comparing and contrasting them to other items, events or people that are in some way similar. With this purpose, none of the items being compared need to be viewed as superior to the others. When the purpose of comparison is understanding or appreciation, the tone seldom becomes argumentative; the writer is more likely to be objective, or positive toward all the items, or even negative toward all the items.

Assignment Description

You will write a three-page essay that Compares and Contrasts the following two songs. You will compare and contrast Silentó - "Watch Me (Whip/Nae Nae)" and EU - "Da'Butt". Final Draft Due: Friday. 2/19/2016. Worth 10% of your grade.

Process of Completion

1. Choose two songs to compare and contrast (songs listed below). Watch both YouTube videos (listed below) several times. Read the lyrics for both songs several times. Read over this assignment carefully before beginning.
2. Brainstorm everything about the two songs. (The songs, the artists, the videos, the lyrics, etc.)
3. Identify points that are relevant to both songs.
4. Make a list of six similar things and six different things about each song.
5. Think about how each song relate to music in general, based on their genre, impact, and musical quality.
6. Come up with a thesis statement that represents the extent the similarities between subjects will be stressed, and the extent their differences will be stressed. (Be sure the thesis statement reflects both of these.)

7. Use an outline to help organize your ideas. Refer back to class notes over the discussion of the Compare/Contrast essay. Decide whether you will use the block or alternating pattern.
8. Choose the sections of the sources and quotes you want to include in your essay and decide which paragraphs they fit the best with.
9. Write your rough draft, not worrying about grammar. Just write at this point.
10. Put your essay away for twenty-hours before revising and editing it. Visit the Writing Center if you need help.
11. Come to the peer review and turn in all drafts. Review carefully your peers' comments and those of the professor. Edit and revise your essay based on the feedback you receive.
12. Reread your essay one last time and make any final edits or changes before turning in your final essay on or before the due date!

Helpful Hints and Thoughts

For this exercise, the two songs are: Silentó - "Watch Me (Whip/Nae Nae)" and EU - "Da' Butt." You may compare and contrast the official videos for the songs, the song lyrics, or both. (Links are below).

To write a compare/contrast essay, you'll need to make NEW connections and/or express NEW differences between two things. The key word here...is NEW!

Gather your ideas by writing down characteristics of each thing. Note the differences and similarities between them.

You will both compare and contrast in this essay. You will compare at least two similarities. You will contrast at least two differences.

In the first paragraph is the introduction that familiarizes your reader with the songs and your thoughts on them. It should include your main thesis and the categories you will be showing your comparison and contrast through.

In the essay, you must mention the songs' impact on society. You can do this in the introduction and then provide a recap in the conclusion.

The main thesis or claim can follow if it isn't in the introduction. The body of the essay presents the comparison either point by point or examines the four or more elements individually to illustrate the similarities or differences.

The conclusion can restate the songs discussed and your position, or you can choose to pose a question about the songs to keep the reader thinking about the songs.

You must:

- clearly tell the reader what is being compared and contrasted so that they can focus on the reasons presented rather than trying to guess what is the main point
- use specific categories or characteristics that the elements compared share as points of comparison.
- write primarily in third person voice, but can use first person voice when using the writer's own experience as evidence.

Resources

Silentó - "Watch Me (Whip/Nae Nae)" – Video -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjW8wmF5VWc>

Silentó - "Watch Me (Whip/Nae Nae)" – Lyrics -

http://lyrics.wikia.com/wiki/Silent%C3%B3:Watch_Me_%28Whip_/Nae_Nae%29

EU (Experience Unlimited) - "Da'Butt" – Video -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ypcs4c7ihSo>

EU - "Da'Butt" – Lyrics - http://lyrics.wikia.com/wiki/E.U.:Da_Butt

Silentó - "Watch Me (Whip/Nae Nae)" Links

<http://www.irkitated.com/2015/07/worst-songs-silento-watch-whip-watch-nae-nae.html>

<http://www.vibe.com/2015/07/silento-whip-nae-nae-interview/>

<http://justrandomthings.com/2015/09/15/silentos-watch-me-whipnae-nae-music-video-review/>

EU - "Da'Butt" Links

<http://www.songfacts.com/detail.php?id=36>

<http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/articles/42532/da-oral-history-of-da-butt-put-your-memory-in/>

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism includes failing to cite a direct quote with quotation marks and an in-text citation, borrowing someone else's work without a correct citation, bad paraphrasing (Safe Assign will not identify a good or fair paraphrase), purchasing a paper, having someone else write your essay, or turning in the same paper to two different classes. Any paper with plagiarism, even accidental (*I forgot to cite that!*), will receive a zero as a final grade. The best way to avoid plagiarism is to cite correctly. See both MLA citation PPTs on eCampus or visit Purdue OWL for more help <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>