*The Great Gatsby* and *Of Mice and Men*

Comparison Essay Assignment

Now that we’ve read two novels with very different views of the American Dream, you are going to write an essay comparing them. The following are ideas for your essay:



Specific concepts of the American Dream

Comparing two specific characters’ dreams

Comparing characters

Comparing settings

Using one of the following formats, you need to be sure you address the role of the American Dream in both novels.

Type 1

1. **Introduction**

Your introduction — like the five-paragraph-essay, should open generally (with a quotation, anecdote, generalization), and lead into the thesis statement.

1. **Topic 1**

This next portion of your essay (which may consist of one paragraph or several) should cover only the first topic of the comparison and contrast. Compare/Contrast essays take two topics and illustrate how they are similar and dissimilar. Do not mention topic 2 in this first portion.

1. **Topic 2**

This next portion of your essay (which may also consist of one or more paragraphs) should cover the second of the two topics. Do not discuss Topic 1 in this section. Since you have already gone into great detail about it, you may allude to Topic 1 briefly; however, do not analyze Topic 1 in this section. This portion of the paper is to discuss Topic 2 in great detail.

1. **Topics 1 and 2 Together**

Now that you have analyzed both Topic 1 and Topic 2 independently, now it is time to analyze them together. This section may also be one or several paragraphs.

1. **Conclusion**

The conclusion — like the introduction — should be a generalization of the thesis. This paragraph should express your certainty and absolute knowledge on the subject matter. You should reaffirm your thesis (essentially restate it in new words) and show how you've proven it.

* Paragraph 1: Introduction (with Thesis)
* Paragraph 2: Topic 1 (Comparison a)
* Paragraph 3: Topic 1 (Comparison b)
* Paragraph 4: Topic 1 (Comparison c)
* Paragraph 5: Topic 2 (Contrast a)
* Paragraph 6: Topic 2 (Contrast b)
* Paragraph 7: Topic 2 (Contrast c)
* Paragraph 8: — Comparisons/Contrasts together (any topic)
* Paragraph 9 :Conclusion

Type 2:

1. **Introduction**

Your introduction — like the five-paragraph-essay, should open generally (with a quotation, anecdote, generalization), and lead into the thesis statement.

1. **All Comparisons (Topics 1 and 2)**

This section — which should consists of several paragraphs — should go through all similarities you find in the two topics on which you are writing. There should be at least three comparisons (essentially three short body paragraphs) in which you give an example from both topics of comparisons in each.

1. **All Contrasts (Topics 1 and 2)**

This section — which should consist of several paragraphs — should go through all differences you find in the two topics on which you are writing. There should be at least three contrasts (essentially three short body paragraphs) in which you give an example from both topics of comparisons in each.

1. **Conclusion**

This conclusion is wrapping up everything you have just proven in your paper. It should restate the thesis in a new, more official way, and you should feel quite confident in your writing.

* Paragraph 1: Introduction (with Thesis)
* Paragraph 2: Comparison a (Topic 1&2)
* Paragraph 3: Comparison b (Topic 1&2)
* Paragraph 4: Comparison c (Topic 1&2)
* Paragraph 5: Contrast a (Topic 1&2)
* Paragraph 6: Contrast b (Topic 1&2)
* Paragraph 7: Contrast c (Topic 1&2)
* Paragraph 8: Conclusion

Either type is correct. We will spend more time in class discussing this. There are many topics from which you can choose to analyze.

The following is the grade breakdown for the assignment

Ideas 25

Organization 25

Voice 10

Word Choice 10

Sentence Fluency 10

Conventions 20

Total 100

You will be using MLA format for the format and quote citations.

The rough draft is due on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. You need **3 copies** of your rough draft in class on this date. If your assignment is not in class, you will not receive points. There is no way to make this up. As usual, I do NOT accept the excuses that your printer broke, it out of ink, computer crashed, etc. There are labs available in the building to complete the assignment. You will not be allowed to leave class to print your essay.

The final draft is due on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I do not take any late assignments. You need to have a copy of your rough draft to turn in as well. If you do not have a copy of your rough draft, your grade will be taken down 50%. You will not be allowed to leave class to print your essay,;come with it ready to go.