

Basic Composition, Fall 2006

Essay #1 (Comparison and Contrast Between Sources)

The Assignment Specifics:

The writer (you) draws on two textual sources to make comparisons and contrasts that clearly demonstrates distinctions and similarities between two sources. Your audience is academic, so tailor your diction and syntax accordingly. *Length:* 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 pages

Thinking in terms of literature, culture, learning, and knowledge, develop a thesis (and an essay) that compares and contrasts ideas and supporting evidence of these sources ("The Tenth Muse" by Barzun and "Why Literature" by Llosa) to support a central idea revealed in your thesis.

Requirements: Use the rhetorical mode of comparison (see Troyka). Develop your essay using either the block or the side-by-side style.

- Use a standard default font (Times New Roman, Verdana, Helvetica, Arial); font size 12.
- Do not use a cover page.
- Center title above beginning paragraph, no quotation marks, no underline, no larger or boldface font.
- Use approximately 1" margins, space and a half or double space between lines.
- At the top left-hand corner of first page only, record your name, Essay # , CPN 99
- Number all pages, including the Works Cited page.
- Your last name and page number should appear in the upper right-hand corner of each page.
- Staple together pages of each draft, with the Work Cited page being the last page.
- Submit in a plain vanilla manila folder labeled on the tab with your name, section number, essay number. In the folder, include all components: notes, worksheet, charts, outline, drafts (identified as Draft #1, etc.), evaluations. Your final submission and the submission evaluation should be on top.
- Use proper grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and other conventions of good academic writing. Yes, spelling counts. Write with a dictionary nearby. Don't use the computer's grammar checker; its suggestions are often incorrect and ill-advised.
- Bring in the essay folder your current work in progress, including drafts, to each class and conference.

Use proper grammar, punctuation, mechanics, sentence structure, and other conventions of good writing. See development Schedule on back.

Caveats:

Do not uses phrases like "In today's society, "in today's day and age," "we as society," "throughout history" or other weak and vague generalizations. Do not use the pronouns "I" or "you."

Avoid clichés, street talk, jargon, and lazy speech. Be specific and engaging. Reach for the right word; use the dictionary and thesaurus. Watch out, however, that you do not use inflated, overblown language.

Your language should represent you and your thinking in an academic world. Eschew both speech that is too informal and conversational, and speech that is too technical, obscure, and abstract. Communicate concisely and effectively. If your essay doesn't make sense or isn't in complete sentences, it will not pass.

Important: In order to get a satisfactory preparation grade on this essay, you must complete and hand in all components of the assignment as scheduled and as assigned, including notes, worksheets, outlines, preliminary thesis statement, any required charts or organizing schemes, drafts that have been reviewed and evaluated by peer editors, and all assigned evaluations. Careless, sloppy, or insufficient work will not be accepted. Take pride in your work: stay organized and put your best effort into this essay.

Progress Checklist

You must prepare this essay in the sequence below. You must get an okay on one step before your proceed to the next.

Essay assigned Sept. 11

Notes, word-processed outline, polished summaries and thesis statement due: Sept. 18

___ 1. Meets all requirements OK'ed by _____ date _____

___ 3. Other requirements not followed Signed _____ date _____

Comments/explanation

Complete word-processed full 1st draft with proper documentation due: Sept. 25

___ 1. Meets all requirements OK'ed by _____ date _____

___ 3. Other requirements not followed Signed _____ date _____

Comments/explanation

Complete word-processed 2nd draft due: Oct. 2

___ 1. Meets all requirements OK'ed by _____ date _____

___ 3. Other requirements not followed Signed _____ date _____

Comments/explanation

Submission draft with complete folder of preparatory material due: Oct. 9

(another copy of this submission draft will be placed in the trial portfolio)

___ 1. Meets all requirements OK'ed by _____ date _____

___ 3. Other requirements not followed Signed _____ date _____

Comments/explanation

Reading has two faces, looks in two directions. One direction is back, toward the source and original content of the signs we are deciphering. The other direction is forward, based on the textual situation of the person doing the reading.

– Robert Scholes (Protocols of Reading 7)