

***Pilgrim's Progress* vs. "Celestial Railroad"**

Comparative Essay

Prompt: Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress* and Hawthorne's "The Celestial Railroad" depict the journey of a pilgrim to the Celestial City. The characters, places, events, in these allegories represent deeper meanings that these authors wish to convey to their readers. Compare these allegories, making sure to point out both similarities and differences. Remember to think beyond the surface-level to the deeper allegorical meanings.

Writing a Compare/Contrast Essay

A **compare/contrast essay** notes the similarities and differences between two things. The comparison or contrast should **make a point** or **serve a purpose**. Consequently, a compare/contrast thesis should do three things:

Compare
Contrast
Make a point

In **making a point**, you may:

- **Clarify** something
- Lead to a fresh **insight**
- Bring a sharper **focus**
- Show which is **better**

(Think: what does it matter?)

1. Brainstorm. Using the Venn diagram worksheet, brainstorm the characters, places, events, and themes common to both works. Once you've written down several things, you need to find three aspects (commonalities) shared by the works. Remember, commonalities are not necessarily similarities. For example, both allegories mention Apollyon. Does he play a similar role in the two works? Both allegories mention burdens. Do they represent the same thing? Both allegories mention places like the Slough of Despond and the Hill of Difficulty. Do they hold the same significance?

2. Creating the Compare/Contrast Thesis- NO MORE 3-PRONGED THESIS!

Remember, your thesis must do three things:

Compare
Contrast
Make a point

Sample comparative essay thesis statement:

Connell's "The Most Dangerous Game" and Glaspell's "A Jury of Her Peers" contain similar literary techniques, however, Connell's story proves more compelling due to greater character development.

PP/CR Thesis Statement Template

| | |
|--|---------|
| TOPIC 1 | TOPIC 2 |
| | |
| <p>Bunyan's <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> and Hawthorne's "The Celestial Railroad" both _____ (similarity) _____; however, _____ (topic + difference) _____ proving that _____ (make a point) _____.</p> <p><i>** you do not need to follow the formula exactly, just make sure to compare, contrast, AND make a point!!</i></p> | |

3. Organizing your Compare/Contrast Essay

- Use the brainstorming worksheet to come up with three common aspects to focus on in your essay. Be sure they directly relate to the main point of your thesis!
- Find evidences for your three aspects. You will need a minimum of one evidence per aspect per story. Each evidence must include context, proof, and commentary.
- Compose an outline following the specific template below.
- Outline must be in proper MLA format and contain all required components.

4. Write your essay!

Essay Requirements:

- Length requirement: 5 paragraphs, minimum **2 full pages**
- Rough draft must follow proper MLA format and meet minimum page requirement. Rough draft must include all five paragraphs and must show evidence of proofreading to be evaluated by tutor.
- Final draft requirements:
 - ✓ Refer to the grading rubric for detailed essay requirements
 - ✓ A PARENT MUST PROOFREAD THIS ESSAY! Submit signed rubric on due date.
 - ✓ Essay must be submitted on time both in class and on Turnitin.com.

Due Dates:

Thesis: Working thesis must be emailed **and approved** by tutor by 5:00 pm on 11/5

Approved thesis & Quotes: Typed thesis and evidentiary quotes due 11/8

Body paragraph outline: Printed copy due in class on 11/10

Rough Draft (including Works Cited): Printed copy due in class on 11/17

Final Draft: Submitted to Tii by 8 am and bring printed copy to class on 12/1

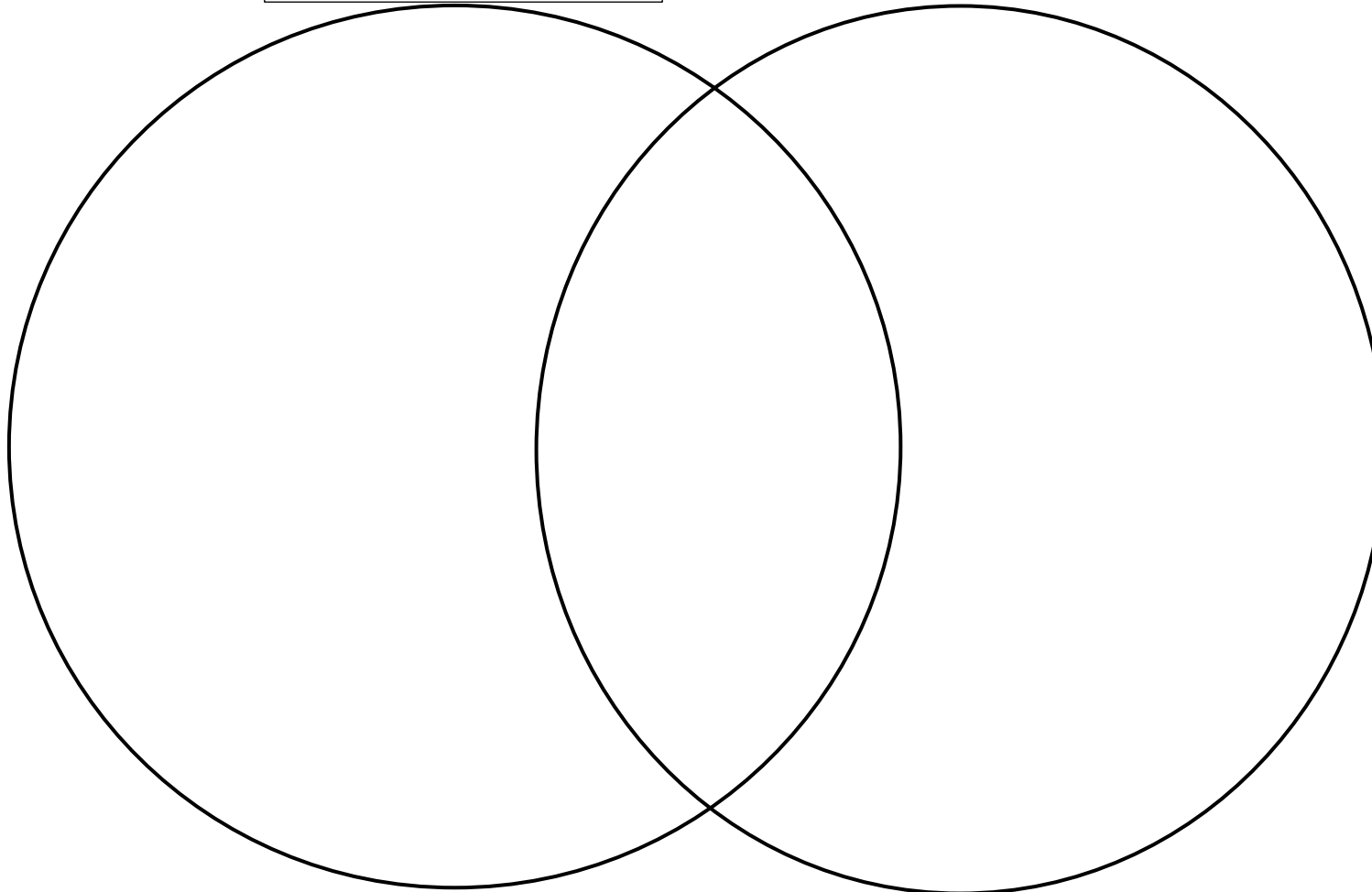
(See the following pages for the brainstorming worksheet and body paragraph outline template.)

Comparative Essay Brainstorming Exercise

1. List your subjects in the boxes below
2. List the attributes or qualities of each subject in the appropriate circle, placing any shared attributes in the overlapping section. Be specific!
(Think: characters, setting (places), events, themes- with their meanings)
3. Circle the attributes that you consider to be most significant from each list and match at least three opposites from one circle to the other.
4. Identify three aspects (commonalities) shared by the allegories. List them in the box to the right.

SUBJECT 1
The Pilgrim's Progress

SUBJECT 2
"The Celestial Railroad"



Three common aspects:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Body Paragraph Outline Template

Thesis Statement: (Type out and underline your entire thesis statement.)

- I. Topic sentence written as a complete sentence: PP & CR (aspect 1)
 - A. PP aspect 1 assertion/context (note form ok)
 1. Properly blended quote with citation
 2. Commentary/Explanation (Relate to main point of thesis- note form ok)
 3. Comparative Transition word or phrase (see list below)
 - B. CR aspect 1 assertion/context (note form ok)
 1. Properly blended quote with citation
 2. Commentary/Explanation (Relate to main point of thesis- note form ok)
 - C. Clincher

- II. Topic sentence written as a complete sentence: PP & CR (aspect 2)
 - A. PP aspect 2 assertion/context (note form ok)
 1. Properly blended quote with citation
 2. Commentary/Explanation (Relate to main point of thesis- note form ok)
 3. Comparative Transition word or phrase (see list below)
 - B. CR aspect 2 assertion/context (note form ok)
 1. Properly blended quote with citation
 2. Commentary/Explanation (Relate to main point of thesis- note form ok)
 - C. Clincher

Transition wording for comparative essays:

Comparison transition wording

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| In addition | Likewise |
| Similarly | At the same time |
| Just as | As well as |
| Additionally | Correspondingly |

Contrast transition wording

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| However | On the contrary |
| On the other hand | Even though |
| In contrast | Although |
| Unlike | Conversely |

Continue this format for body paragraph 3: PP & CR (Aspect 3)