

# Comparative Analysis Essay Example

Compare & Contrast **WR4.41**

## A Sample Essay

Below is Richard's complete essay about two pieces of literature – a poem and a short story. Read the essay and identify the following parts:

1. The introduction
2. The body paragraphs
3. The conclusion
4. The thesis statement
6. The structure of the essay (subject-by-subject OR point-by-point)
7. The surface ideas used for comparison
8. The analysis of each surface idea
9. The transitions used in each body paragraph

### Multiple Selves and Relationships

Erving Goffman's theory of dramaturgical analysis proposes that social interaction is a sort of play in which people engage in a number of roles, presenting themselves so they appear in the best possible light. In all social environments, people engage in role-playing and impression management. Thus, there is no single self, just the ensemble of roles one plays in various social contexts (Brym and Lie 81). Since people are constantly engaged in impression management, they produce certain guises that affect the structure of their social relationships. This managing of multiple roles has complex social implications that offers interesting subject matter in literary works about the human condition. For example, Francis Reginald Scott's poem, "The Canadian Authors Meet," describes an author who is frustrated with his peers for their self-concealment, and he believes their artistic progress has become stagnant as a consequence of their unwillingness to be true to one another. Another work that contains this theme is Madeleine Thien's short story, "Simple Recipes," which tells of a woman who struggles to accept the aspects of her father's character that he reveals during her family's integration into Canadian society. Taken together, these literary works demonstrate how the concealing or revealing of oneself can create stability or volatility in relationships, without suggesting how either method of interaction would generally be desirable.

In Scott's poem, the characters perform self-concealment within a public social group that maintains a hindered but stable relationship as a result. This meeting of Canadian authors is described as fairly large and impersonal due to the nature of the event and the interaction within it. The speaker observes these attributes in how "Miss Crochet ... sails / from group to chattering group" (Scott 3-5). Relationships that are formed in these social settings tend to be limited to

R. Tardif and C. Klassen (Fall 2014)

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**Comparative analysis essay example** serves as a crucial tool for students and writers who seek to explore the similarities and differences between two or more subjects. This type of essay encourages critical thinking and allows the writer to evaluate the subjects in depth. In this article, we will delve into what a comparative analysis essay is, its structure, key components, and provide an example to illustrate the process clearly.

## Understanding Comparative Analysis Essays

A comparative analysis essay is a type of academic writing that examines two or more subjects, highlighting their similarities and differences. This approach can be applied in various fields, including literature, history, and social sciences. The main goal is to provide insight into the subjects, helping

the reader to understand them better in relation to each other.

## Key Characteristics of a Comparative Analysis Essay

When writing a comparative analysis essay, there are several key characteristics to consider:

- **Purpose:** The primary purpose is to compare and contrast the subjects to reveal new perspectives or insights.
- **Thesis Statement:** A clear thesis statement should indicate the main point of comparison and contrast.
- **Organization:** The essay should be well-structured, allowing for clarity and coherence in presenting the analysis.
- **Evidence:** Use relevant evidence from credible sources to support your comparisons and contrasts.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize the main points and restate the significance of the comparison.

## Structure of a Comparative Analysis Essay

A comparative analysis essay typically follows a structured format that includes the following components:

### 1. Introduction

The introduction sets the tone for the essay. It should include:

- A hook to grab the reader's attention
- Background information on the subjects being compared
- A clear thesis statement that outlines the main points of comparison

### 2. Body Paragraphs

The body of the essay is where the analysis takes place. It can be organized in two main ways:

- Block Method: Discuss all aspects of one subject before moving on to the next. This method is suitable for shorter essays.
- Point-by-Point Method: Alternately discuss each point of comparison for both subjects. This method

allows for a more detailed analysis.

Each body paragraph should begin with a topic sentence that introduces the point of comparison, followed by evidence and analysis.

### **3. Conclusion**

The conclusion should summarize the main findings of the essay and reiterate the thesis statement. It may also discuss the implications of the comparison and suggest areas for further exploration.

## **Example of a Comparative Analysis Essay**

To provide a clearer understanding of how a comparative analysis essay is structured, let's explore an example comparing two classic novels: "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen and "Wuthering Heights" by Emily Brontë.

### **Title: A Comparative Analysis of "Pride and Prejudice" and "Wuthering Heights"**

#### **Introduction**

Literature has long been a mirror reflecting the complexities of human relationships, and two novels that exemplify this are Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" and Emily Brontë's "Wuthering Heights." While both novels delve into themes of love and social class, they approach these issues from strikingly different angles. This essay will compare the portrayal of love, the influence of social class, and the characterization of the protagonists in both works.

#### **Body Paragraph 1: The Portrayal of Love**

In "Pride and Prejudice," love is presented as a rational and evolving emotion. Elizabeth Bennet, the protagonist, learns to look beyond first impressions and societal expectations to find true love with Mr. Darcy. Their relationship develops through mutual respect and understanding. Conversely, "Wuthering Heights" portrays love as a destructive force. Heathcliff and Catherine's passionate relationship is characterized by obsession and vengeance, leading to tragedy and suffering. The contrasting portrayals of love in these novels highlight the different societal contexts and values of the authors.

#### **Body Paragraph 2: The Influence of Social Class**

Social class plays a pivotal role in both novels but is treated differently. In "Pride and Prejudice," class distinctions influence social interactions and marriage prospects, but the narrative ultimately champions love over wealth. Elizabeth's refusal of Mr. Collins's proposal demonstrates her belief in

marrying for love rather than financial security. On the other hand, "Wuthering Heights" presents a bleak view of social class. Heathcliff's status as an orphan and his subsequent rise to wealth do not lead to happiness; instead, they fuel his desire for revenge against those he believes have wronged him. This divergence in the treatment of social class reflects the authors' differing views on its impact on human relationships.

### **Body Paragraph 3: Characterization of the Protagonists**

The protagonists in both novels embody the distinct themes of their respective stories. Elizabeth Bennet is intelligent, witty, and strong-willed, representing the emerging modern woman who questions societal norms. Her character undergoes significant development, showcasing her growth and self-awareness. In contrast, Catherine Earnshaw in "Wuthering Heights" is a complex figure whose wild spirit and emotional turmoil drive the narrative. While Elizabeth's journey is one of self-discovery and empowerment, Catherine's path leads to self-destruction, highlighting the consequences of unbridled passion.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, both "Pride and Prejudice" and "Wuthering Heights" offer rich explorations of love, social class, and character development, yet they do so in profoundly different ways. Austen's work promotes a balanced view of love and societal expectations, while Brontë's novel serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of obsessive love. By comparing these two literary masterpieces, we gain a deeper understanding of the authors' perspectives on human relationships and the societal constraints of their time.

## **Final Thoughts**

Writing a comparative analysis essay can be an enlightening experience that enhances critical thinking and analytical skills. By carefully examining the similarities and differences between subjects, writers can offer valuable insights that contribute to a broader understanding of the topics at hand. Remember to adhere to a clear structure, support your arguments with evidence, and articulate your findings effectively. With practice, anyone can master the art of comparative analysis.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is a comparative analysis essay?**

A comparative analysis essay is a type of writing that examines two or more subjects, comparing and contrasting their similarities and differences to highlight specific insights or themes.

### **What are some key components of a comparative analysis essay example?**

Key components include an introduction that presents the subjects, a thesis statement that outlines

the main argument, body paragraphs that explore comparisons and contrasts, and a conclusion that summarizes the findings.

## How do you structure a comparative analysis essay?

A typical structure includes an introduction, followed by either a point-by-point or block method in the body, and concludes with a summary of the main points and a restatement of the thesis.

## Can you provide an example of a comparative analysis essay topic?

An example topic could be 'Comparing the Themes of Love and Sacrifice in 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'The Fault in Our Stars'.

## What are some common mistakes to avoid in a comparative analysis essay?

Common mistakes include failing to establish a clear thesis, providing insufficient evidence for comparisons, or straying off-topic without maintaining focus on the subjects being analyzed.

## How can I improve my comparative analysis essay writing skills?

To improve, practice by analyzing different texts or subjects, read well-written comparative essays for style and structure, and seek feedback from peers or instructors to refine your arguments and clarity.

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## Comparative Analysis Essay Example

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May 15, 2008 · Quickly is, in fact, an adverb, and thus you must always say "more quickly."

"Quicklier" is not a valid word. Dirty is an adjective but "Dirtier" also sounds better than "more ...

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Oct 3, 2010 · Hi everybody! I need the help of native speakers here please. I work on weather reports at the moment with my pupils and we're studying comparison. When dealing with ...

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Sep 8, 2008 · The general rule for comparative and superlative forms of adjectives would suggest that all one-syllable adjectives are formed using -er and -est. So, in theory, "fitter" and "fittest" ...

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either by adding -er suffix or more. And also can form the superlative either by adding -est ...

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#### lonelier/more lonely - WordReference Forums

Dec 9, 2014 · Hi. Does "lonely" have two comparative forms? Dictionaries say it should be "lonelier" but does "more lonely" sound wrong?

#### **more modern / moderner - WordReference Forums**

Feb 2, 2008 · I wanted to know why in English, you don't say "moderner" but "more modern" while, according to the rules I have studied, with a short word (1 or two syll.) you only have to ...

#### *huger, more huge - WordReference Forums*

May 6, 2012 · Hello everybody! I'm teaching this week the comparative to my students and I came across the adjective HUGE and using it in a comparative way , what's correct "huger" or "more ...

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#### **Comparative - proner or more prone? | WordReference Forums**

Jan 20, 2007 · What an interesting question! I have never heard "proner", but according to the "rules" I was taught 50 years ago "proner" should be fine as a comparative. Example 2. She is ...

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