

Comparing Styles Essay

Review the Comparing Styles handout and write an essay that compares and contrasts significant aspects of the two. You are not expected to include everything that is similar and/or different in your essay; you will be showing how the author realized the theme or the "so what" via style techniques (refer to the Style Analysis handouts). Remember, you are always writing about the effect of the literary elements and would never simply mention them without regard to the effect upon the excerpt. The stories are paired because of obvious similarities and/or differences. It will be your job to clarify those similarities and to show also how the stories differ. One thing that makes this type of essay difficult is that there is often too much to write about. The trick is to latch on to what seems most significant and narrow your focus accordingly.

There are basically two ways to organize a compare/contrast essay:

1. whole to whole (write about one story first, then the second)
2. subject to subject (move back and forth between stories, writing about one element, then another, for example)

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