TRAGEDY

COMPARISON & CONTRAST
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BASICS

- Generate a list of similarities and differences
  - Decide which to focus on
- Organize an essay
  - Choose evidence
- Outline
- Draft
WHY?

- Comparison & Contrast is one of the most common writing assignments for a student
  - Make connections between texts and ideas
  - Engage in critical thinking
  - Go beyond mere description and summary
- Gain a deeper understanding of the subjects—and highlight what is important about each
EXAMPLE PROMPTS

Compare WWI to WWII, identifying similarities in the causes, development, and outcomes of the wars.

Contrast Wordsworth and Coleridge; what are the major differences in their poetry?

Compare and contrast Christianity and Judaism in terms of practice, canon, and their prophets.
Mr. Wilkes

- Beautiful
- Grooves to Jazz
- Loves Gatsby

Mr. Emrey

- Use PPT
- Like music
- Read Books
- Unsightly
- Bumps Dubstep
- Thinks Gatsby is "just okay"
DECIDING ON WHAT TO FOCUS ON

Who?
- Who created them?
- Who are the most important individuals?

What?
- What are they about?
- What is the tone or mood? Structure?

Where?
- Where are the authors/characters from?
- Where does most of the action take place?

When?
- When were they created?
- When was the author recognized/acclaimed?

Why?
- Why are they significant?
- Why were they created?

How?
- How do they relate to society at large?
- How does the author use language?
COMPARISON & CONTRAST

EXAMPLE PROMPTS

What is relevant to the assignment?

What is relevant to the course?

What is interesting and informative?

What matters to the argument you will make?

What is central to the meaning?

What is more important? Similarities or differences?
RELEVANCE

For most literature classes, the fact that they both use Calson type (a kind of typeface, like the fonts you may use in your writing) is not going to be relevant, nor is the fact that one of them has a few illustrations and the other has none; literature classes are more likely to focus on subjects like characterization, plot, setting, the writer’s style and intentions, language, central themes, and so forth. However, if you were writing a paper for a class on typesetting or on how illustrations are used to enhance novels, the typeface and presence or absence of illustrations might be absolutely critical to include in your final paper.
Sometimes a particular point of comparison or contrast might be relevant but not terribly revealing or interesting. For example, if you are writing a paper about Wordsworth’s “Tintern Abbey” and Coleridge’s “Frost at Midnight,” pointing out that they both have nature as a central theme is relevant (comparisons of poetry often talk about themes) but not terribly interesting; your class has probably already had many discussions about the Romantic poets’ fondness for nature. Talking about the different ways nature is depicted or the different aspects of nature that are emphasized might be more interesting and show a more sophisticated understanding of the poems.
Judaism and Christianity were similar in some ways but different in others.

While both Judaism and Christianity are both Abrahamic religions that have sprung from the same cultural hearth, they diverge in their practices of the faith, recognition of religious canon, and the divinity of Jesus Christ.

Subordinate conjunction

n., prep., n. = parallel
LITERARY ANALYSIS

Point by Point

Aspect 1 - Practices of Faith
Aspect 2 - Religious Canon
Aspect 3 - Divinity of Christ
TRANSITIONS

COMPARISON: TRANSITIONAL ADVERBS

In addition  Correspondingly  Compared to

Similarly  Just as  As well as

Likewise  At the same time  In the same way
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>However</th>
<th>Despite</th>
<th>On the one hand... on the other hand</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Even though</td>
<td>In contrast</td>
<td>Unlike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevertheless</td>
<td>Conversely</td>
<td>Compared to</td>
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Finally, at the heart of *Night* and *Life Is Beautiful*, two different beats vibrate. In *Life Is Beautiful*, overwhelming desperation rarely presides over its lighthearted mood, and jubilance abounds. It makes audiences smile even before the tragic moment when Guido proudly strides with the Nazi official, feigning happiness and playfulness, and just moments later is executed via machine gun. On the other hand, in *Night*, Elie asks himself, “die today or tomorrow, or later? Here or elsewhere, what did it matter?” (Wiesel 98). He broods on whether or not people live in vain, unable to have some say in their body and life, and also doomed to oblivion by the God and the world. By repeatedly questioning God and the meaning of life, Elie presents the reader with a world in which the existence of God is doubtful, and the reader is left to question their spiritual beliefs. In contrast, *Life Is Beautiful* conveys a rather positive belief that life is always beautiful so long as we choose to make it so.
Brainstorm similarities and differences
What examples from both texts might you use?
So what? Why is this comparison relevant?
Read Example Essay

What do you notice about the structure?

What are the greatest strengths of this essay? (list three)