**Compare and Contrast Paragraph**

**To compare = to find similarities To contrast = to find differences**

Compare and Contrast essays are a staple of lit classes at the university level. There are 2 ways of completing a compare and contrast essay/paragraph:

1. Tennis match (back and forth for each text per point)
2. Blocks (block of information about text a, then the same for text b)

Most courses prefer the second option. This allows you to go more in depth with analysis, as well as refrain from confusing your reader unnecessarily with your points and quotes.

You will be comparing and contrasting Johnson’s short story with Wilson’s. You will explore the similarities and differences between the texts, as well as suggesting the effects or impact of those differences in terms of A) constructing a Canadian identity; B) describing the Canadian landscape; **or** C) exploring social diversity and change (positively or negatively). You may choose to look at aspects of setting; characterization; style or technique; or point of view. \*You may address both similarities and differences in the paragraph – it does not need to be one or the other.

Your question: **How do the texts of Johnson and Wilson construct Canadian identity OR describe the Canadian landscape OR explore social diversity and change through the use of setting; characterization; style or technique; or point of view?**

**Outline (Venn Diagram and charts) DUE: Tuesday. We will be typing in the lab on Wednesday, so don’t waste lab time with planning.**

**Final Copy DUE: Thursday. If you have any questions, contact me via the website.**

**Step 1:** Choose a Big Idea from Column 1 + an aspect of writing from Column 2 (in parentheses you will see some points of comparison to get your thinking started).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **BIG IDEAS (Choose 1)** | **ASPECTS OF WRITING (Choose 1)** |
| constructing a Canadian identity; | Setting (place, time, daily lives, occupations, political and cultural climate) |
| Characterization (dialogue, appearances, actions, thoughts, relationships) |
| describing the Canadian landscape | Style or technique (ex: use of humour; irony; foreshadowing, and other literary devices) |
| exploring social diversity and change | Point of View (who tells the story; whose perspectives we hear; whose do we not) |

**Step 2:** Create a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the two texts. Think of as many similarities and differences as you can that relate to your choices from Columns 1 and 2. Choose your 3 strongest points to become your Points of Comparison.

**Step 3:**  Find at least 3 examples of each aspect in each text. Fill in the following chart.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Points of Comparison from Column 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Examples of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Column 2 selection) from each text in your own words | Quotation of support with citation |
| 1. | Johnson:  Similar or different to  Wilson: | Johnson:  Wilson: |
| 2. | Johnson:  Similar or different to  Wilson: | Johnson:  Wilson: |
| 3. | Johnson:  Similar or different to  Wilson: | Johnson:  Wilson: |

**Step 4:** Explain how the details from the charts impact your reading of the authors’ Big Idea from Column 1.

|  |
| --- |
| Overall, how does Johnson’s text use the strategies you just outlined in relation to your chosen Big Idea? |
| Overall, how does Wilson’s text use the strategies you just outlined in relation to your chosen Big Idea? |

**Step 5: Structure your Paragraph**

**Header:** Your name / Course Code / Date / Teacher name. All on own line, double spaced, same font

**Title** = centred; same font

**Thesis** = Titles/Authors + opinion + aspect (NOT three reasons)

**Block 1**: Topic sentence = Title or Author + aspect + 3 elements. Explanation of Author 1’s work. Explain the 3 elements of your chosen aspect. Be sure to “use properly cited quotations” to support your thinking (Kennedy 1).

**Block 2**: Topic sentence = Transition word + Title or Author + aspect + 3 elements. Explanation of Author 2’s work. Explain the 3 elements of your chosen aspect and how they are similar or different from Author 1. Be sure to “use properly cited quotations” to support your thinking (Kennedy 1).

**Conclusion**: Rephrase Thesis

Words That Signal Comparison

alike equally in the same way likewise similarity as in a similar fashion just as resemble similarly as well as in a similar way

just like same equal in like manner like similar

Words That Signal Contrast

Although conversely differently more on the other hand as opposed to despite even though most still at the same time difference in contrast nevertheless to the contrary but different

in spite of on the contrary unlike by contrast different from instead yet