Comparison-Contrast Essay NOTES

**Comparison/Contrast** - The process of examining two or more things in order to establish their similarities and differences.

**FYI about comparison:**

1. Any relationship between two or more things will involve some degree of SIMILARITY, as well as some degree of DIFFERENCE.

2. Comparisons can be found in any kind of writing: magazine articles, advertising, essays, news articles, letters, editorials, textbooks, scientific writing, reports, political speeches, and pamphlets.

3. We make comparisons when we have to choose between two or more things: careers, products, political candidates, goals, etc.

4. Comparisons underlie everything we do!

**THESIS for “Lob’s Girl” Vs. “Dog of Pompeii”**

Choose one of the following:

1. The two literary works appear different but have significant similarities.

OR

1. The two literary works appear similar but have significant differences.

**Real life example of having similarities but significant differences:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | ME | MY BESTFRIEND |
| Similarities: | Black hair | Black hair |
|  | 6th grade | 6th grade |
|  | Excellent grades | Excellent grades |
|  | Dutiful to parents and obedient | Dutiful to parents and obedient |
|  | In youth and government | In Youth and Government |
|  | Play the viola | Plays the viola |
|  |  |  |
| Differences: | Risk taker | Cautious |
|  | Outgoing | Reserved/Shy |
|  | Want to travel the world | Wants to live in McKinney forever |

**SAMPLE COMPARISON-CONTRAST PARAGRAPH BASED ON CHART ABOVE**

My best friend and I appear similar to our friends and family, but we there are significant differences between us. Granted, we both go to the same school and participate in all of the same extracurricular activities. We even have the same hair cut and similar sense of fashion. But, we are very different! I’m the type of person who likes to take the bull by the horns and truly experience all that life has to offer, whereas my best friend is more cautious and predictable. Her mantra is, “It’s better to be safe than sorry.” In contrast, my mantra is, “YOLO!!!”

**SO, do the two short stories have similarities with significant differences or differences with significant similarities? (you must decide)**

Your **introduction** should contain:

1) The names the items to be compared

“Lob’s Girl” by Joan Aiken

“The Dog of Pompeii” by Louis Untermeyer

2) The purpose of the comparison (THESIS)

SEE THESIS OPTIONS ABOVE

3) What is being compared and/or contrasted

* Historical and cultural setting
* Climax
* Theme
* Family life
* Plot
* Character traits (Bimbo and Lob)

There are so many more aspects of these stories that can be compared. Above are just a few examples.