*The Catcher in the Rye* and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

Comparison Essay

**Learning Goals:**

1. I can use the inquiry process to develop and trace my own ideas about a theme or topic throughout a text so that I can develop a deeper understanding of the text.
2. I can reflect on my past writing and use the writing process effectively so that I can write an effective formal essay.

In a five-paragraph essay, compare a universal theme from the novel *The Catcher in the Rye* and the movie *The Perks of Being a Wallflower.*

**Success Criteria**

* Thorough analysis of how the theme appears in both texts
* Properly structured comparison essay
* Clear, insightful thesis that demonstrates a connection between the two texts
* Logical organization
* Properly structured body paragraphs
* Prove your thesis using specific examples
* MLA formatting – for your information, citations, and works cited
* Proper integration of quotations – include at least 6 quotations from the text
* Thorough explanation of how your points link back to your thesis
* Use of the writing process to plan, organize and edit your essay

**Remember:**

* Formal language (no slang, “I”, “you”, contractions…)
* Write in the present tense (unless you’re talking about something that happened in the past in the novel)
* Typed, double-spaced, 12pt font, 1 inch margins
* Explain all ideas clearly and effectively (pretend your reader knows little about that novel and movie)
* Be specific – not “this shows…”, state what “this” is referring to
* Don’t tell your reader what you’re doing – ~~the thesis is~~… ~~this essay will explain~~… ~~the first point is~~…
* No “if” statements – stick with what actually happened as a result

***Formal Essay Rubric***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 |
| Knowledge/ Understanding | -Demonstrates limited understanding of novel and movie  -Demonstrates limited understanding of form of comparison essay | -Demonstrates some understanding of novel and movie  -Demonstrates some understanding of form of comparison essay | -Demonstrates a clear understanding of novel and movie  -Demonstrates a clear understanding of form of comparison essay | -Demonstrates thorough understanding of novel and movie  -Demonstrates thorough understanding of form of comparison essay |
| Thinking/ Inquiry | -limited thesis that somewhat applies to both texts  -Points to defend thesis with limited effectiveness  -Limited support of thesis with specific evidence  -Chooses ineffective or limited quotations and proof | -Clear thesis that applies to both texts  -Well-chosen points to defend thesis  -Somewhat supports thesis with specific evidence  -Chooses quotations and proof | -Clear, thought-provoking thesis that applies to both texts  -Effectively-chosen points to defend thesis  -clearly supports thesis with specific evidence  -Chooses effective quotations and proof | -Clear, insightful and thought-provoking thesis that applies to both texts  -Insightful and effectively-chosen points to defend thesis  -Effectively supports thesis with specific evidence  -Chooses very effective quotations and proof |
| Communication | -Limited explanation of how evidence and reasons support thesis  -Limited connections between texts  -Uses informal language or ineffective word-choice  -Many formatting, spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation errors | -Somewhat explains how evidence and reasons support thesis  -Somewhat makes connections between texts  -Uses formal language  -Some formatting, spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation errors | -Clearly explains how evidence and reasons support thesis  -Clearly makes connections between texts  -Uses elevated diction  -Few formatting, spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation errors | -Clearly and effectively explains how evidence and reasons support thesis  -Clearly and effectively makes connections between texts  -Uses elevated diction and well-chosen vocabulary  -Very few formatting, spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation errors |
| Application | -Limited organization to support thesis  -uses MLA structure with many errors  -Limited use of the writing process effectively to plan, organize, and edit essay | -Essay is organized support thesis  -uses MLA structure with some errors  -Some use of the writing process effectively to plan, organize, and edit essay | -Essay is organized to clearly support thesis  -uses MLA structure with few errors  -Uses the writing process to plan, organize, and edit essay | -Essay is organized effectively to clearly support thesis  -Uses MLA structure with very few errors  -Uses the writing process effectively to plan, organize, and edit essay |
| Learning skills: | Responsibility: | Organization: | Initiative: |  |