*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***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 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: |  |