Comparison Essays

## Introduction Paragraph

* **General statement** - Some type of general introduction to the theme you will be discussing
* **Link** - Introduce the 2 works you will be discussing - Include title of works (italicised) as well as the author and director (Stephen Chbosky) – connect them to the topic you introduced at the beginning
* **Thesis statement** **and direction**– argumentative, focusing on a theme that applies to both works
  + Turn your driving question into an argumentative statement that can be proven by both works
  + You are using both works to prove the same point, not discussing how they are similar and different throughout the whole essay
  + *(ex: Holden Caulfield and Charlie prove that in order for a literary character to be relatable, one must feel empathy for what the character experiences. Their haunting pasts, their use of language to draw the reader in, their hope for the future prove Holden and Charlie to be characters with which readers can empathize.*

## Body Paragraphs

\*\*a comparative essay is slightly different in its structure for body paragraphs – you include 2 point, proof, explanation for EACH text, therefore, you will have **4 ppe** instead of 3ppe (like you usually do)\*\*

In terms of organizing these points, you have 2 options (choose the one that makes the most sense):

**Option 1-** book, movie, book, movie

* (transition) **Topic sentence** - - needs to introduce your point, apply to **both** texts, link back to your thesis, and indicate where your paragraph will go
  + *(ex: To commence, both Holden and Charlie struggle to overcome traumatic events from their past that allows the reader to empathize with them, as is seen through their loss of a loved one and the way in which it is dealt with.)*
* (transition) **Point 1** – needs to apply to both texts
* **Book** - (transition – to indicate you’re talking about the book)**proof**
* **Movie** – (transition – to indicate you’re referring to a different text) **proof**
* **Explanation –** explain how both proofs prove your thesis at once – use key words from your thesis AND an argumentative word to link back
* (transition) **Point 2** – needs to apply to both texts
* **Book** - (transition)**proof**
* **Movie** – (transition) **proof**
* **Explanation**
* (transition) **Concluding sentence –** summarize the points you’ve made and explain how these examples prove how both works support the thesis – use key words from you thesis AND an argumentative word to link back
  + *(ex: Because of the struggle Holden and Charlie face when overcoming a loss, and the ensuing pain that affects their daily lives and decisions, the reader is able to empathize with them and feel their pain, making these characters relatable.)*

**Option 2** –book, book, movie, movie

* (transition) **Topic sentence** - - needs to introduce your point, apply to **both** texts, and link back to your thesis
  + *(ex: To commence, both Holden and Charlie struggle to overcome traumatic events from their past that allows the reader to empathize with them, as is seen through their loss of a loved one and the way in which it is dealt with.)*
* **Book –** (transition) point 1, proof, explanation
* **Book –**(transition) point 2, proof, explanation
* **Movie –** (transition) point 1, proof, explanation
* **Movie –** (transition) point 2, proof, explanation
* (transition) **Concluding sentence –** summarize the points you’ve made and explain how these examples prove how both works support the thesis – use key words from you thesis AND an argumentative word to link back
  + *(ex: Because of the struggle Holden and Charlie face when overcoming a loss, and the ensuing pain that affects their daily lives and decisions, the reader is able to empathize with them and feel their pain, making these characters relatable.)*

## Concluding Paragraph

* (transition) Restate thesis statement
* Summarize your three body paragraphs (in a little more depth than you did in your introduction – one sentence per point)
* Closing remark – something similar to your general statement at the beginning 🡪 broad statement about your topic, not about the two works

**Notes about comparative essays:**

* Keep the order you discuss the texts the same throughout the whole essay
* Don’t forget to integrate your quotations properly
  + **Should have at least two quotations from the novel in each body paragraph**
  + For the movie, include two specific examples – **do not include quotations unless you are absolutely sure they are 100% correct**