**Compare-Contrast Paper**

Your assignment is to write a compare-contrast essay on two characters: Odysseus from *The Odyssey* and Everett from *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* Use this guide to assist your writing. This essay must have an introduction, a body paragraph, and a conclusion. This essay must contain specific examples and use correct grammar. Please see the rubric for specific grading.

**Use the following words in your essay to signal comparing or contrasting.**

**At least TWO from each column must be used.**

**Compare Signal Words:**

* All
* As well as
* At the same time
* Both
* Like
* Same as
* Similarly/ similar to

**Contrast Signal Words:**

* Although
* As opposed to
* Compared with
* Either…or
* However
* Nevertheless
* Not only… but
* Though
* Unlike

**Comparing Two Characters:**

**Create a chart similar to the one below to organize your thoughts & notes on both characters.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Character | Physical appearance | Actions | Feelings | Reactions of others | Interactions with others (specific examples from text/movie) |
| Odysseus |  |  |  |  |  |
| Everett |  |  |  |  |  |

**Format for Essay:**

* **First paragraph**
  + One sentence introducing a main theme from both stories (not one word, but a sentence stating a life lesson)
  + One-two sentences summarizing the epic, *The Odyssey*
  + One-two sentences summarizing the film, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*
  + One-two sentences summarizing how they were alike and different
* **Second paragraph**
  + Two-three sentences about how characters were alike
  + You must use at least two specifics in this paragraph
  + Two-three sentences about how characters were different
  + You must use at least two specifics in this paragraph
* **Third paragraph**
  + Three-six sentences about the themes/messages of both stories
  + You must also explain your reactions/ impressions of the similarities and differences—what did they add or subtract to the story itself?

**Grading:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area** | **5-excellent** | **3-mainly satisfactory** | **1-poor** |
| **Ideas & content** | At least 2 specifics are presented; some of the examples go beyond the obvious and are fully explained | 2 specifics are presented with good details and explanations; most are obvious connections | 0-1 specifics are presented; poor if any detail; unsatisfactory examples |
| **Organization** | Engaging introduction; logical order & definitive conclusion | Introduction & conclusion are present; most relationships between ideas are present | Introduction and/or conclusion lacking; no clear, logical order |
| **Voice** | Tone moderately formal; fresh, individual viewpoint | Generally inviting, but flat in sections; need more conviction to writing style | Lacking technique and voice; generic, bland |
| **Word choice** | Good use of a variety of words for comparison and contrast | Most words are used correctly; required number of transitions lacking | Insufficient vocabulary in multiple places |
| **Conventions** | Very few or no errors | Moderate errors not pulling focus of topic | Several errors pulling focus; confusing essay |

**Possible bonus points:**

**+2 =** each extra example over the 2 required for comparing & contrasting

**+15** = create a short PowerPoint presentation reflecting your comparing & contrasting of the two characters—this must be emailed to me by the due date of the paper ([stanforc@wilkes.k12.nc.us](mailto:stanforc@wilkes.k12.nc.us))

**+25 =** create an original piece of art (must be 3-D) that reflects your understanding of the similarities and differences between Odysseus & Everett—this must be turned in by the due date of the paper.