

English II Compare & Contrast Prompt for Homegoing



Prompt

In a well-developed five-paragraph essay, compare and contrast two characters from the novel *Homegoing*, focusing your analysis on how the two characters approach/express/represent one of the major themes of the work.

Introduction and Conclusion

The introduction for a literary analysis essay is a bit different than a normal essay. Primarily, it's easier. Instead of a STAMPY intro, you just need to give an overview of the piece(s) and author you will be discussing in your essay.

Sample:

From the cramped, filthy bowels of a slaver's dungeon to quiet dignity of a Harlem mother hoping to wean her son from the drugs that are destroying his life, Yaa Gyasi's debut novel Homegoing compels the reader to delve into the experience of one family separated by fate and the cruelty of the world they live in. [Hook] In her 2016 novel, Gyasi depicts the generational struggle to overcome the original sin of slavery, but two characters, Yaw and Willie stand out. [Bridge]

The last sentence of your introduction paragraph should be your thesis, discussed below.

Thesis

The thesis needs to do two things: 1) preview the elements you'll discuss in the piece and 2) argue which story you believe was more effective based on those comparisons.

Sample Thesis: *Although both face incredible hardships and pain, the contrasting journeys Yaw and Willie undertake to learn forgiveness illustrate the novel's argument that one can only overcome pain when forgives those who have wronged them.*

Paragraph Structure Model

- Introduction/Thesis
- Character One
- Character Two
- Meaning (how these two stories collectively reveal a theme of the work)
- Conclusion (Very short, bookend of introduction)

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Topic Sentences

- Your topic sentences should reveal the character you will discuss and give a brief overview of how the theme you chose relates to him/her.
- It should be an argument.

The Author Should Be Your Focus; She Makes the Choices, Not the Characters!

Remember to write your essay with the author as the focus of your analysis: “Gyasi depicts...”

Body Paragraph 3!

- Body paragraph three will be the most challenging part of the piece. In it, you will want to look for how points of similarity and difference help develop the theme of the work. For instance, what do we learn about Yaw’s initial criticism of the idea of forgiveness before his ultimate acceptance of it? Why is Wille’s ability to forgive both her son and husband emblematic of her acceptance of her Christian faith?
- Be deep and thoughtful in your analysis!

How to Incorporate Quotations

- Remember to embed your quotations inside sentences so they make logical and grammatical sense.
- There is a specific order when you incorporate a quotation from literature: quote, quotation mark page number, punctuation.

Sample incorporated quotes:

- *Gatsby is not to be regarded as a personal failure. "Gatsby turned out all right at the end" (176), according to Nick.*
- *For Nick, who remarks that Gatsby "turned out all right" (176), the hero deserves respect but perhaps does not inspire great admiration.*

Requirements

- Please submit a typed response that uses a legible 12-point font, 1” margins, a double-spaced body, and a simple header. Everything should be double spaced.
- The response should be at least 800 words long
- You need to include 5 quotes from the stories. Each of them should be short, interesting bits of text that illustrate an argument you are making. Use the quotes as evidence to support your claims about the characters.