

Literature in the Bible: Compare & Contrast Essay

Biblical & Non-Biblical Heroes

This lesson may be used to introduce the compare/contrast essay concept, or simply to review the process.

GRADE LEVEL

7-10

TIME REQUIREMENT

1-2 Periods (50 min each), depending on how much time given students to work in class

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Review methods of how to compare & contrast
- Explore comparisons and contrasts between two characters: a Bible hero and non-biblical hero
- Organize material into outline form
- Synthesize material into an essay (3-5 paragraphs)

JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE CONNECTIONS

- Acceptance of God
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Intellectual Development
- Communication Skill
- Personal Management
- Aesthetic Appreciation

MATERIALS

- ✓ Overhead of Venn diagram
- ✓ Sample outline (for teacher reference, overhead, or copying)

ACTIVITY

Review

1. Explore with students the difference between *comparing* and *contrasting*
2. Have students select two students in the class to practice comparing and contrasting using a Venn diagram (overhead or drawn on board)
3. Have students categorize the differences and similarities into no fewer than 2 groups and no more than 3 groups (eg. physical features, personality traits, interests, etc.)
4. With class help, sketch an outline for a comparison/contrast essay (sample outline provided below)

Explore

1. Brainstorm biblical heroes with the class; write the list on one side of the board
2. Brainstorm non-biblical heroes with the class; write the list on the other side of board
3. Have students select a biblical hero and a non-biblical hero to compare and contrast (note: some will be difficult to use due to minimal information provided—particularly with the biblical heroes). Examples: Moses and Abraham Lincoln; Samson and Arnold Schwarzenegger; Queen Esther and Eleanor Roosevelt, etc.

Organize

1. Using Venn diagrams, have students compare and contrast their selections
2. Next, have students categorize information into 2 or 3 groupings; each category should have 2-3 similarities (comparisons) and 2-3 differences (contrasts).
3. The material is then organized into outline form (see options; guide students as they decide how to organize their outline material; if not already done, teacher may need to teach students how to format outlines)

Synthesize

1. Write the essay, one paragraph at a time (3-5 paragraphs depending on amount of information available and method of organization)

INTEGRATIVE OR FOLLOW-UP LESSONS

- Thesis statement development
- Introduction development (funnel, etc.)
- Paragraph development
- Transitional words and phrases
- Conclusion development

Heroes Comparison/Contrast Essay

Basic Outline

Bible Hero: _____

Non-biblical Hero: _____

I. Introduction

- A. Hook
- B. Thesis statement

II. Body

- A. Comparisons – topic sentence
 - 1. Comparison 1 and supporting evidence
 - 2. Comparison 2 and supporting evidence

- B. Contrasts
 - 1. Contrast 1 and supporting evidence
 - 2. Contrast 2 and supporting evidence

III. Conclusion

- A. Summary of points
- B. Restate thesis
- C. Final comment