**Local Hauntings**

**A Comparison Contrast Research Project**

**Lesson Plan**

**Day 1**

**Hour 1**

Writing Prompt: Take some time to think about local ghost stories, hauntings, or urban legends you may have heard over the years. Why do you think these stories have lasted through the years?

Discuss responses to writing prompt.

Show PBS video.

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Give Assignment and put students into groups.

**ENGLISH1010**

**Comparison Contrast Group Assignment**

Your comparison contrast essay will be a group project. As a group, you will decide on what two subjects you would like to explore under the realms of local hauntings or local urban legends.. Then, you will decide whether your subjects are mostly different OR mostly similar. Your assignment is NOT to prove or disprove whether the places are haunted. Your essay will follow a proper comparison contrast format. You will have a fully developed introduction paragraph with a hook, a narrowing, down, a thesis, and a plan of development. Your body paragraphs will follow ONE of two possible formats: point by point or subject by subject. Lastly, you will have a fully developed conclusion paragraph.

We will review the two format options for your body paragraphs in class. It is important that your format is consistent. In addition, you will be required to use at least **three** sources within the body of your essay. MLA format will be used for essay and Works Cited page.

Finally, on the day the paper is due, you will present your finding to other groups during a presentation. Your presentation will not be reading your essay out loud to the class. Instead, your presentation will let the audience know what two subjects were examined, whether there were mostly similarities or differences, and whether you thought one subject was “better” than the other. You will be required to offer a visual and audio aid as part of your evidence for your presentation.

Here is the breakdown of the grading policy for the assignment:

Essay 50%

Presentation 25%

Visual/Audio Aid 25%

Due Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 1**

**Hour 2**

Have students sit in their groups for the project. Begin discussion on comparison contrast format. Review a sample essay together.

Review notes on using comparison or contrast in an essay.

Allow students time to brainstorm ideas for their project.

**Day 2**

**Hour 1**

Hand out articles related to local hauntings. Discuss how to choose valid sources. Most sources for an assignment like this will be from local newspapers and news stations. However, it is important to find out the **history** behind each location first. Most of these places are more historic than haunted, but please don’t tell the students!

News articles

Nine Men’s Misery Haunted Monastery, Cumberland, Rhode Island

<http://www.valleybreeze.com/2014-11-19/cumberland-lincoln-area/giants-nine-mens-misery-history-channel-investigators-job#.VzNKTTHm4Z8>

<http://www.yankeemagazine.com/new-england-legends/nine-mens-misery-historic-site-in-cumberland-ri>

Great Swamp Massacre, Kingston, Rhode Island

<http://www.providencejournal.com/article/20151117/ENTERTAINMENTLIFE/151119444>

<http://www.narragansett-tribe.org/king-philip-s-war-and-the-great-swamp-massacre.html#.VzNMZzHm4Z8>

White Horse Tavern, Newport, Rhode Island

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/fodors/10-most-haunted-bars-in-a_b_8337712.html>

<http://whitehorsenewport.com/about/history/>

Lizzie Borden House, Fall River, Massachusetts

<http://www.wcvb.com/news/lizzie-bordens-house-being-restored-to-original-condition/34438202>

Allow students time to work with their groups.

**Day 2 Hour 2**

Have ALP students review an article within their group. What makes it valid? Where else could you go to get credible information on this topic?

Allow students time in class to work on their projects.

**Day 3**

**Hour 1**

**Computer Lab Day**

How to access the library databases

Searches

Citations

Works Cited

General Tutorial of PowerPoint

**Day 3 Hour 2**

Have students do their research and work within their groups

Review how to include quotes or paraphrases into an essay

“Citation Situations” Exercise

Organizing a Comparison or Contrast Essay

MLA Format

**Day 4**

**Hour 1**

Class lesson on writing and organizing comparison contrast essays

Review student samples from past semesters. Use peer edit checklist to see if samples are complete.

**Day 4 Hour 2**

Look at additional essay samples.

Possible lessons on citing sources, creating proper titles, using capital letters, creating a Works Cited page

**Day 5**

**Hour 1**

Have entire class work on project. Walk around room and review projects with groups.

**Hour 2**

Meet back in class

How to Peer Edit lesson

PREVIEW DRAFTS DUE with Conferences - Meet with each ALP groups to review drafts the class before rough drafts are due for entire class.

**Day 6**

**Hour 1**

Computer Lab

Rough Drafts due and peer edit for entire class

**Sample Peer Edit Checklist**

**Editor’s Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Writer’s Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Peer Edit**

**Comparison/Contrast with Research**

**Overall Questions**

What are the two subjects being compared or contrasted?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does the writer show mostly similarities or differences?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does the writer dedicate at least one paragraph to some similarities or differences?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does the writer favor one subject over the other?

If so, what subject is it?

Why is it favored?

**Introduction Paragraph**

How does the writer hook the reader? (broad statement, contrast, anecdote, statistics, quote, relevance, other)

Does the writer dedicate a few sentences after the hook to narrow down to the main point?

How many sentences?

What is the thesis statement?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does the writer offer a plan of development?

**Body Paragraphs**

Oftentimes when a writer shows mostly differences between two subjects, he/she may also show just a few similarities beforehand. The opposite is true when a writer show mostly similarities. Did the writer do this in a paragraph after the introduction paragraph?

How many similarities/differences did the writer offer?

For the main body paragraphs, does the writer show similarities or differences?

How many similarities or differences does the writer show?

How does the writer organize the two subjects? Point by Point or Subject by Subject?

If the writer chose Subject by Subject, did the writer address the characteristics of each subject in the same ORDER? If not, please have writer correct it.

Does the writer offer enough elaboration on each similarity/difference between the two subjects?

Give an example of an elaboration.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any places where the writer loses unity?

Are there any similarities or differences that need further explanation?

**Conclusion**

Does the writer re-state the thesis?

Does the writer summarize the major similarities/differences?

Does the writer favor one subject over the other?

Does the writer leave the reader with a lasting thought or impression?

**Sentence skills**

Overall thoughts on grammar, spelling, punctuations, sentence structure, p.o.v., parallelism, subject/verb agreement, verb tense, etc.

**In-text Citations**

Based on guidelines, the writer should have quoted or paraphrased from at least three separate sources. Can you find at least three different parenthetical citations in this essay?

List the different sources in parenthesis cited in the body of the essay.

Are those sources also listed on the Works Cited Page?

Are there any sources listed on the Works Cited page that are NOT in the essay itself?

**Work Cited**

Does the writer use proper MLA format?

Is the title, Works Cited, centered on the top of the page?

Are sources listed alphabetically by the first word of each entry?

Is all information double spaced?

Is the first line of the entry flush left?

Are all proceeding lines in entry indented?

How many sources are cited?

Are the sources academically acceptable?

Does the writer use at least three (3) academic sources?

Do all sources appear to be valid sources? Explain.

**Reflection**

What did you like least about this essay?

What did you like most about this essay?

**Hour 2**

Work with students on revising essays and PowerPoint slides.

Review grammar and essay revisions.

**Day 7**

**Hour 1**

Projects and Presentations Day

**Hour 2**

Response Paper and Reflection on the group assignment

Celebrate!

**FINALE: Schedule field trip for local ghost tour, museum, or haunted mansion**



