

English 197: Writing Link with Comparative Literature 272

Comparison Essay Proposal

Length and Due Dates

Length: 750-1000 words, formatted as described in the “Essays” portion of the syllabus

Due: Monday, November 3; bring in hard copy

Assignment

The proposal assignment allows you to develop a tentative thesis, pose arguments related to this thesis, identify potential evidence and consider organizational strategies for your comparison/contrast essay. You may submit the proposal in a word-processed format, or you may use PowerPoint. You may also integrate images into the proposal, particularly as you discuss shots and scenes you will analyze in the essay. In completing the proposal, you will produce a roadmap to guide your drafting process.

Although the proposal can take a variety of formats, it should include the following components:

- A tentative title for the essay.
- The names of the films you will compare/contrast.
- The theme you plan to address and an indication of how you plan to narrow the theme.
- A tentative thesis that addresses the significance of the films’ similarities and differences.
- An overview of the similarities and differences you will address in the essay.
- A description of the shots or scenes you plan to analyze, with notes on the arguments you plan to make about these shots and scenes.
- An indication of the order in which you plan to make your points. You may do this in the form of a list, a descriptive outline, or any other format that works for you.
- A list of any questions you have regarding the assignment or your ideas-in-progress.

While I have listed the elements you should include, you can address them in an order you wish. For example, you may integrate the overview of similarities and differences and the listing of shots/scenes into the outline of points. You may also incorporate anything else that will help you draft the essay (excerpts from your electronic responses; quotations from lecture, readings, or others’ electronic responses; notes taken during in-class presentations, etc.). If you choose to integrate images into the proposal, you will find screen shots from all comparison essay films in the “Images” folder of our class drive.