English IV

Mr. Scholtz

Compare and Contrast Essay

For your first essay, you will write a compare and contrast essay, using at least TWO of the sources I have provided you with. Your goal is to analyze the *similarities* and *differences* in the representation of good/evil between religions/cultures/people (i.e. Christianity and the Iroquois people). Your essay must be at **least two pages, double-spaced, in MLA format**. You do not need a works cited page, but all quotations must be **internally cited** (come talk to me if you need clarification on this)!

**A rough draft will be due Tuesday, September 12th and polished drafts are due Friday September 15th.**

The essay will be graded on Ideas (5) Sentence Fluency (5), Conventions (5), Organization (5), and MLA format (5).

Tips for writing an effective Compare and Contrast Essay:

Limit your comparison and/or contrast to subjects that can be **adequately developed** in an essay (in other words, pick one or two main differences).

Decide **why** each point of comparison or contrast **is important.**

Decide what points of comparison or contrast are the most important or the most revealing.

Decide which of the patterns of comparison and contrast best fit your purpose:

\* Subject by subject: This pattern discusses Subject A, then Subject B, then how the subjects compare and contrast.

\* Point by point: This pattern discusses each point and how Subject A compares or contrasts with Subject B on that point.

Remember to use **clear transitions** to make clear to your reader when you are switching from one subject to another or from one point of comparison to another

**You MUST:**

1. write in a 3rd person point of view (do not use “I”, “we”, “us”, “me”, “you,” etc.)
2. write in the present tense (i.e. Christianity **states** that one human being must not kill another).
3. have at least one quote in every single body paragraph (meaning you directly reference Steinbeck, the Iroquois people, Steve Taylor, or Christian Doctrine)
4. have a **thesis statement** in your introductory paragraph that **outlines your entire essay** (see sample below)

**Sample Introduction/Essay outline**

Throughout history, people and cultures have struggled to define what constitutes “good” and “evil.” In the pursuit of this endeavor, many have defined these terms in relation to their own culture, meaning they have interpreted these terms through the lens of their own religious, political, or social beliefs. However, because no two cultures are the same, the resulting definitions have inevitably been quite different. For example, Christian theology contains substantially different notions of good and evil when compared to the religious belief of the Iroquois. Although these two belief systems do share similarities regarding notions of right and wrong, **they differ significantly in their rigidity, their cosmology, and their attitude toward forgiveness.**

Paragraph 1: Rigidity

Paragraph 2: Cosmology

Paragraph 3: Forgiveness

Conclusion: