

Contrasting Cultures - Five Paragraph Writing Assignment

Purpose: To contrast one society we have read about in class with current American culture.

Role: You will be writing *as if you were an expert* on the culture of the society we have read about.

Audience: Write for people who are not aware of the unique culture you are describing. Persuade the reader to take an interest in the topic, and perhaps visit the location of the societ/culture.

Form: Begin with an introductory paragraph. This paragraph should start with a hook, include a transition of 1-3 sentences, and end with your **thesis statement**. Briefly list the three ways that the two societies are different. The body of your essay should include three paragraphs, each of which explains one way that the two cultures are different. Each paragraph needs 2-3 pieces of direct text evidence complete with page number citations. **Mr. Flamm will help you with the citations and Works Cited page.** Your essay should end with a conclusion paragraph that begins with a restatement of your thesis, has a transition of 1-3 sentences summarizing your body paragraphs, and ends with some type of reference back to the hook you used at the beginning of your essay. Your finished essay should be at least 400 words and no more than 700 words.

Focus Correction Areas:

- Content:** You use a minimum of six pieces of direct text evidence* (4 each; 25 points)
Your text evidence is used effectively to support your thesis (5 each paragraph; 15 points)
- Organization:** Your introduction starts with a hook, has a transition, and ends with a thesis. (5 each; 15 points)
Your conclusion restates the thesis, recaps your points, and refers back to the hook (5 each; 15 points)
Each body paragraph begins with a topic sentence and ends with a conclusion. (5 each; 15 points)
- Style:** Your writing includes various types of phrases (noun, verb, adjectival, adverbial, participial, prepositional, absolute) and clauses (independent, dependent; noun, relative, adverbial). (5)
Your writing shows mature word choice by avoiding slang and other weak vocabulary. (5)
- Conventions:** Colons and semicolons should be used correctly, avoiding run-on sentences. (-2 each error up to 10)
All words should be spelled and capitalized correctly. (-2 each error up to 10)

Procedure:

1. Choose three of the main ways that the society we have read about is similar to or different from current American culture.
2. Create a thesis that makes a generalization about the two cultures and also states the similarities or differences you are going to be talking about in your essay.
3. Think of an interesting, creative way to begin your essay and “hook” your reader.
4. Fill in the transition that you will use to link your “hook” to your thesis.
5. Write your essay.
6. Proofread for punctuation, spelling and capitalization before turning in your essay.
7. Read two other students’ essays and grade them according to the rubric. Provide feedback to those students on how they can improve.
8. Using the advice you get from a classmate, revise your essay.
9. Grade yourself using the rubric. If you are not happy with your grade, make revisions to improve.
10. Staple the completed rubric to your essay and turn it in by the due date, November 1, 2016.

Rubric for Contrasting Cultures Five Paragraph Essay

Criteria	Points possible	Self-evaluation	Teacher's score
Has text evidence	-----	The 3 boxes below can only add up to 20 points.	
2-3 pieces in first body paragraph	3 each; 6-9 total		
2-3 pieces in second body paragraph	3 each; 6-9 total		
2-3 pieces in third body paragraph	3 each; 6-9 total		
Explanations describe how text evidence supports thesis	----- -	----- --	-----
First body paragraph	5		
Second body paragraph	5		
Third body paragraph	5		
Introduction	----- -	----- --	----- -
Has a hook	5		
Has a transition	5		
Ends with thesis	5		
Paragraphs have topic sentence and conclusion	----- -	----- --	----- -
Body paragraph #1	5		
Body paragraph #2	5		
Body paragraph #3	5		
Conclusion	----- -	----- --	----- -
Restates thesis	5		
Summarizes main points	5		
Ends with a clincher	5		
Sentence variety	5		
Mature word choice	5		
Punctuation	-2 each up to 5		
Spelling & Capitalization	-2 each up to 5		
TOTAL POINTS	100		