Rubric for the Compare/Contrast Essay

Score:

Introduction: An intro that grabs, “HOOKS” your reader. Does it have one of the four hooks?

- Paper begins with a global, noble stance and has one of the four hooks: question, quote, fact, or a universal truth.
- Intro identifies your subjects, explains the basis of your comparison, and states the purpose and limits of your study.
- Thesis statement has an opinion and a fact and lets the reader know of the essay’s purpose. Thesis is highlighted in yellow.
- The thesis is strong enough to sustain three pages of the essay.

Body: Premises are directly related to the thesis statement.

- Each graph contains a topic sentence, and the graphs sustain the points being compared/contrasted?
- Essay is organized either point by point, subject by subject, or as a combination of the two, or essay is a discussion of similarities and differences.
- IMPORTANT: Each graph contains at least two examples (logos) and they have been highlighted in blue~Remember RENNS! See Troyka page 52.
- These examples demonstrate a command of the author’s credibility (ethos).
- Treatment of topics has been balanced.
- Same qualities of each subject have been discussed.
- Essay has been organized effectively (for help see “A Brother’s Murder”).
- The purpose is clear. Essay either examines the subjects separately or it demonstrates the superiority/better conditions of one over the other~
- Evidence of compare/contrast vocabulary is present (see Troyka).

Conclusion: Thesis is not merely restated.

- Conclusion summarizes and analyzes the main points of the essay.
- Grammar/Spelling~Essay contains no more than three errors.

Comments: