

Comparative Summer Reading Paper – 2013

You have 3 options for comparing the 2 books you read for summer reading.

1) Utilize your choice book from summer reading and David Potter's *People of Plenty* to analyze the ways in which the author/characters from your summer reading choice book would have experienced the America that Potter describes.

2) Alternatively, you may articulate the ways in which your choice book author and/or characters would have agreed or disagreed with Potter's main thesis.

3) Finally, you may connect the 2 books to the *actual* historical context in which each was written (the 1950s-1960s) and explain how accurate the authors' rendering of the experiences of Americans would have been for the time...this one is harder for *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* and *The Plum Plum Pickers* as we have not covered the 60s much so it might require some research unless you have had the content in other classes.

The essay must be between 9-12 pages in length. Times New Roman, Footnotes, page numbers, double-spaced. You may write a rough draft (due Sept 26) and if you earned an 85% or lower on your Conclusions Essay you MUST write a rough draft. Whether or not you submit a rough draft, the final draft will be due Sept 30.

Total: _____/100

Category	Grade -- Mastering (18-20)	Developing (17-16)	Emerging (16-14)	Any essay earning less than a C- will be rewritten.
Content	Demonstrates sophisticated, accurate and insightful understanding of the content of BOTH books; and meets ALL of the components required on the assignment.	Demonstrates accurate understanding but not overly deep understanding of both books; misses one of the components required on the assignment.	Demonstrates superficial and somewhat inaccurate understanding of one or both books; misses two or more of the components required on the assignment.	
Synthesis	Skillfully explores the complexity of the issues by including excellent detail of both Potter and the choice book.	Explores the complexity of the issues but is less analytical for one of the authors.	Superficially or inadequately recognizes the complexity of the issues for more than one of the authors.	
Analysis	Shows excellent ability to compare and contrast	Shows some ability to	Shows only superficial	

	and deconstruct the arguments/perspectives of the two authors and recognizes the nuances of the ideas present in each book. Skillfully compares how the choice book characters would have experienced Potter's ideas about America.	compare and contrast the 2 authors but misses the nuances of the authors' ideas and less skillfully compares the two books.	ability to compare and contrast the books and misses the nuances of each author almost completely.	
Insightful/Original/Creative Thesis	Develops a truly original idea that provokes the reader to think and that holds the essay together; Develops ideas completely to form a unified whole; Sustains control over a thesis/controlling idea throughout the essay.	Displays some original thinking; Thesis or controlling idea is consistent and controlled but may not be as focused, arguable, and well-developed as those in top category; may lose sight of the thesis in places – or thesis may leave out parts of the required components.	Lacks evidence of original thinking; Thesis or controlling idea is limited, confused, partially developed, and/or not arguable, and only addresses the components somewhat.	
Mechanics and Organization	Writing is fluid and clear; language sophisticated; individual voice/style evident; no first person or confused verbs; almost no mistakes in spelling/punctuation; well organized so that each section flows into the next and all sections are obvious	Writing is fluid but some ideas unclear; language is basic; individual voice/style hard to discern; some first person and/or verb confusion; a few spelling and punctuation mistakes; organization is solid but at times sentences do not build and/or paragraphs do not logically transition into one another.	Writing is quite choppy; ideas are unclear because of grammatical mistakes and organization is so poor that the paper does not logically flow.	

Comments: