

Essay 2: Comparative Analysis

Writer:

Reviewer:

Paper Title:

Reviewer E-Mail:

Carefully read through your peer's entire paper once. After doing so, take the following steps:

Thesis & Introduction

1. Locate the thesis of the paper and label it **THESIS**. If it is not located at the end of the first paragraph, draw a line from the thesis to its rightful place.
2. Does the thesis move beyond *identification* of a shared theme between the novels and say what the writer *argues* about that theme? Is the thesis specific enough? Write at least one suggestion for improving the thesis below.

3. Does the introduction prepare the reader to understand the thesis? What terms/ideas need further explanation in the introduction?

4. Does the introduction mention the authors and novels by name? It should. Write one other suggestion for improving the intro below.

Analysis

1. Does each paragraph have a topic sentence that clearly states the paragraph's main claim? On the draft, mark **TS** next to any topic sentences that are not claim-based.
2. Does each paragraph (except the introduction and conclusion) include a quotation or other form of specific evidence? On the draft, mark **EV** next to any paragraphs that need evidence.
3. **STRONGEST** paragraph: What is good about this paragraph? What could improve? Describe how the writer could apply some of this paragraph's analytical strengths to the rest of the paper.

4. **WEAKEST** paragraph: What is good about this paragraph (and what should the writer save)? How could the writer improve the analysis in this paragraph? (Some possibilities: offer alternate interpretations; discuss complicating evidence; address the evidence's linguistic, descriptive, or locational elements; explore the story's exploitation of specific literary terms and expectations)

5. Do you agree with the essay writer's sense of which paragraphs were strongest and weakest? Why or why not?

Structure & Conclusion

1. How logical is the essay's structure? Does it progress from the less complex (and therefore easily demonstrated) arguments to those that require more complete explanation?

2. Does the conclusion build on the paper's analysis to explore the implications found by comparing the two novels? (This will make it difficult to tie the paper up in a neat bow.) What could change to make the conclusion more thoughtful and less tidy? Write two suggestions for improving the conclusion below.

Global Concerns

Comment on which parts of the argument you find most compelling. What would you absolutely keep (and beef up or improve), and what would you consider cutting?