Comparative Texts

an extension

By David McLean
On what basis can we compare these seemingly different film clips?

How would we build a response that compares these two film clips?
By looking at the similarities and differences between the two clips, we can see where they converge.

Lighting, camera angle, sound, editing, approach
Your introduction will set up the purpose of the essay and identify the techniques you will address.

Your paragraphs will address one focus at a time providing evidence from both film clips.

Your conclusion can look at the effectiveness of the techniques used and the appropriateness given the purpose and audience.
COMPARING WRITTEN TEXTS
The two Scottish generals, Macbeth and Banquo, returning victorious from this great battle, their way lay over a blasted heath, where they were stopped by the strange appearance of three figures like women, except that they had beards, and their withered skins and wild attire made them look not like any earthly creatures.

**MACBETH**
So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

**BANQUO**
How far is't call'd to Forres? What are these So wither'd and so wild in their attire, That look not like the inhabitants o' the earth, And yet are on't? Live you? or are you aught That man may question? You seem to understand me, By each at once her chappy finger laying Upon her skinny lips: you should be women, And yet your beards forbid me to interpret That you are so.
MACBETH

Shakespeare

MACBETH

Lamb

Audience, purpose, tone, mood, approach, language, character, setting
What are the implications of this form of presentation?

What impression is generated by the characters given the way they act or are described?

Has the choice of language been influenced by the mode of presentation?

Who has the piece been written for and how will this affect the mode of presentation?
Two potential essay structures are provided here. Can you spot the difference?
What is the difference between the two types of body paragraph?
COMPARING TWO COMPLETE TEXTS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Romeo and Juliet</th>
<th>The Great Gatsby</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Observation</td>
<td>Play</td>
<td>Novel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Implications**

audience, reader, drama, writing style, description, dialogue
PLOT

Romeo and Juliet

- An introduction
- Social turmoil
- Meeting at a party
- Secret meetings
- A challenge
- Misinformation

The Great Gatsby
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Romeo and Juliet</th>
<th>The Great Gatsby</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The force of love</td>
<td>Social decline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love as violence</td>
<td>Hollowness of class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual versus society</td>
<td>Superficial attitudes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fate</td>
<td>Lies and deceit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blame</td>
<td>Hope for a future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deception</td>
<td>Guilt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morality</td>
<td>Wealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foolishness</td>
<td>The past</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of the issues from the Romeo and Juliet column could just as easily appear in The Great Gatsby Column?

Could any of the issues from The Great Gatsby column appear in the Romeo and Juliet column?

What examples could you provide to justify your answer?
We now use the issues as a basis for generating an essay.

Contention

- Love is often seen as a powerful but destructive force in literature.

Explain

- Characters give into passion because of both fate and foolishness. They often deceive themselves or are forced to mask their true intentions from others to achieve their ends. This is evident in both 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'The Great Gatsby'. It is almost as if Juliet, Gatsby and Romeo are individuals standing up against the world but their behavior prevents them from their own folly. The appropriateness of their conduct and the very morality of what they do are brought into question as is the conduct of those around them.
The topic sentence picks up on one of the issues in the introduction. Examples are provided from both texts. An interpretation is offered.
CONCLUSION

Your conclusion rounds off your essay.

It is not a repeat of the introduction or your leading arguments.

Go back over your paragraphs and look at the interpretive commentary. Take note of what you have discovered.

The insights you came up with can be used in your conclusion.
Relationships are fraught with challenges.

Question it.

What sort of relationships are we talking about?

What challenges are faced?

Fraught means to be filled with anxiety or stress so, what sort of stress do we discover in the texts?
Comparing text extracts

Essay response

Comparing film

Comparing complete texts
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