



Academic Research and Writing Comparison Paper Dr. Sue Short

Standard instructions: The paper must be word processed (or typed) using a standard 10 to 12 point font, have one inch margins, and be stapled together. The length of the paper is your decision; six to eight pages will probably be typical.

Draft of Comparison due: 3.27.07

Workshops: 3.27.07

Final Paper Due: 4.3.07

For the comparison paper, you will read, analyze, and compare two articles from the discipline of art history that discuss the work of one artist or one important theme in art. The comparison should cover all aspects of the articles, including both the way in which the articles were written and the merits of the ideas expressed. You will choose the articles that you will use for the comparison. The same guidelines apply for the articles you used for the Summary/Description and Critique papers. They must be **scholarly** articles that discuss the work of a visual artist whose work interests you or a specific topic or theme in the history of art. The articles should expressly refer to examples of the artists' work. The articles should also include some good quality analysis of the issues, themes, styles, and techniques involved in the artwork and not be just descriptions. Art Index Full Text or EBSCO Academic Search Premier would be good places to start in searching for your article. You are looking for an article that analyzes issues and ideas; avoid book reviews and do not use entire books for this assignment. The articles must offer content that is similar enough to provide a basis for comparison, yet different enough so that you will have interesting points to discuss. If suitable, you may use the same article you used for one or more of the previous papers as one of the two articles for this paper.

As you are writing and revising the comparison paper, keep the following in mind:

Thesis:

The paper must be structured around a central thesis statement. A thesis is a statement of the topic and a comment about the topic, indicating to the reader what your point of view will be about the two articles you are comparing. The result of your paper should not be only a summary of the two viewpoints, but should be an explanation of your conclusion about the issues or problems that are raised in the articles you compare.

Summary:

Provide a coherent summary of the main points of each of the articles. The summaries identify the points that will be critical in your comparison and will organize the ideas for the reader. Assume that the reader of your paper has not read the articles that you are comparing.

Bases of Comparison:

Choose the bases on which you will compare the articles carefully. Select points that address critical aspects of the issues or problems that both articles discuss. Carefully analyze each article's treatment of the points you are comparing.

Organization:

Paragraph structure and careful use of topic sentences in each paragraph are important tools in keeping the discussion clear and on track. You may organize your discussion either by article or by the points of comparison, but be consistent and clear in the method you choose.

Conclusion:

A comprehensive conclusion is an essential component of a good comparison, but is especially important if you organize your presentation by article rather than by points of comparison.