

English 1A – Composition
Fall 2006, San José State University
Section 01: MW 07:30-08:45, SH 238

Essay #5 (out-of-class compare/contrast)

Due Date(s):

- **Wednesday, October 11th:** Bring **THREE** copies of a complete rough draft. Outlines, partial essays, and handwritten pages are unacceptable.
- **Monday, October 16th:** Bring one copy of your rough draft, all workshop sheets, and one copy of your final essay to class. Additionally, **upload the final version of your essay to TurnItIn.com before coming to class.** Your essay will be considered **late** if you hand the hard copy to me before uploading the electronic copy to TurnItIn.com.

Instructions

- Refer to the "MLA Document Formatting Guidelines" handout for instructions on creating your essay document. The handout outlines the font type and font size, spacing, and margin requirements, among other information.
- Give a descriptive title to your essay. "Essay #5" is not a descriptive title!
- As with all essays, pay close attention to organization. Make sure your essay has an introduction, a clear thesis, supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- I **strongly suggest** you discuss your thesis and initial outline with me before you write your final draft, especially if organization was an issue for you in previous graded essays.
- Your essay should be approximately **1000-1200 words** (3-4 typed pages).
- Select **ONE** of the essay options from the list below:

Option #1

Bruce Patton's essay, "Grant and Lee: A Study of Contrasts," considers these two American generals in terms of their differences as well as their similarities. Write a "study in contrasts" about two people you know well, such as two teachers, two relatives, two friends, or even two fictional characters. Be sure you have plenty of contrasting elements for this to be a "study in contrasts," but do include similarities when appropriate.

Option #2

If you have moved from one town or city to another, you may write an essay comparing and contrasting these two places. Your thesis should clearly indicate whether you are emphasizing similarities or differences, and should also convey your own opinion of the new place compared to the old place. Include similarities and differences to support your thesis.

Option #3

How is being a participant in an activity—playing a sport or acting in a play, for example—different from being a spectator in that activity? Write an essay that compares and contrasts these two positions.