

# How to Write a Comparison Essay of Films

If it's something obvious that needs no proof, there's no reason to write an essay at all. The essay exists in order to prove that inference, in order to explore it, unpack it, and provide evidence that that is a valid thesis. Okay, so let's say that that's your thesis. Now in the first body paragraph of your essay, you're going to need to begin with yet another inference, so yet another insight into these characters. Now, it's got to support the thesis though, it can't just be another separate inference. It is there to prop up the thesis, to provide evidence. The whole paragraph is going to go into detail and give quotes, but this first sentence of the body paragraph needs to support what the thesis is saying. So the first sentence might be something like, "A good attitude allows Cinderella and Alladin to cope with harsh living conditions." Now this would work as a body paragraph first sentence, because it does infer, it talks about their good attitude, and then it gives the paragraph something to discuss. So, what good attitude? Where do you see the good attitude? You can tell the reader, "Well, Cinderella is made to do all these chores, but she's patient, she's cheerful, she sings, even, while she's doing some of these chores." So we can prove that she does have a good attitude, and this attitude is how she's able to cope with living in this horrible situation with the stepmother. Alladin, we can prove that he has a good attitude. As he's running through the bazaar, stealing bread, he has a sense of humor, he sings. You could prove that he has a good attitude, and that, in spite of his hardship and lack, he is managing to survive and even thrive in the midst of poverty. So there's your first body paragraph. For a second body paragraph, you would need a second inference, and you could go on and on for as many paragraphs as you can. It doesn't have to be just three body paragraphs, as you may have been taught in high school, the traditional five-paragraph form, but it could be. If you have a fourth idea that will support that thesis, why not have a fourth paragraph, and then of course end with the conclusion? But every body paragraph should open with an inference. That gives it something to prove. Let me give you another example. Um, let's see. Cinderella and Alladin conquer evil by calling upon inner strength. Hmm. Do they really? Well, you could take a paragraph and prove it, that they do call on inner strength when they're faced with these evil situations. Alright, so we could go on like this, with more inferences, more proof. We would certainly include quotes. In some cases, quotes are worth maybe as much as ten points in an [writing an essay for college](#), so make certain to include direct quotations from the film, not just references to the events, but people actually talking, and put it in, in quotation marks. Now, to conclude, your conclusion should not start talking about a new idea. It should recap the argument you have just made. So you've put together this elaborate proof of the thesis, and now you need to recap that, and remind the reader, "Okay, you remember I made this point, and I made this other point, and this point, and that all adds up to..." not the thesis, which you do not want to put just verbatim over again in conclusion. You've got to rephrase it, rework it, so that you're expressing a similar idea, but in different words, and then your conclusion is done. So there's your comparison essay, and one last tip: Avoid talking about differences in a comparison essay, unless your teacher has expressly said to explain differences, as well as similarities. Oftentimes, it's only the similarity that is interesting, because the differences are so, so obvious, and there's not a lot of inferences that we can make when we're talking about differences. So stay with the similarities.