

Writing the introduction for a comparison essay:

Writing the introduction for a comparison essay is probably the hardest part! The rest of the essay really isn't as hard – because you have flexibility in what you want to discuss; but the introduction is rigid in what it expects, and you really have to plan your essay out before writing the introduction. If it's not flowing, some people find it helpful to write their introduction after writing the essay.

Sample Essay topic: **compare how both texts present visions of a hopeless future.**

Firstly: do I take this topic 'as fact'? Or can I question parts of it?

And how do I go 'beyond' what the essay topic says, to bring my own thoughts?

In this case, I can definitely challenge parts of this!

(Refer to "Jake's Hope Brainstorming Session" document for other examples of how I've **gone beyond**.)

Sample Introduction:

Both the dramatic film Nineteen Eighty-Four (1984), adapted from George Orwell's novel by director Michael Radcliffe, and the speculative science-fiction novel Brave New World written by Aldous Huxley, present dystopian visions of a future in which there is little hope for the individual rights and freedoms of mankind*. **The meticulous and totalitarian way that each system utilises technology to control its people leaves little room for any hope to be a free individual**.** Additionally, the citizens of each system have been conditioned to the point that the vast majority feel that they do not need hope, although in very different ways***. However, within these seemingly hopeless worlds, human nature and the human striving of characters inspired by nature, beauty and love, still exists****. **Therefore, while both texts present visions of the future in which the characters either lose hope or feel they do not need hope, ultimately both texts suggest that their visions of the future are not entirely without hope.*******

158 words

** note I have introduced both texts fully and I have expanded the definition/understanding of 'hope' to give more breadth to the topic.*

**** 1st supporting argument/topic sentence:** suggests that I will write a paragraph about how each system uses technology/ies to reduce any hope for personal/individual freedoms.

***** 2nd supporting argument:** indicates I will discuss/compare how each system conditions its citizens (e.g. one to 'love' their servitude, the other through fear) and how that impacts hope.

****** 3rd topic sentence:** However... This is where I will look at compare the hope that does exist in each text, and try to finish the paragraph by showing how the hope, while broadly similar, is also different, and what each author might be trying to communicate (their values) through this hope.

******* Contention.**

PLEASE NOTE: In a comparison essay, not all essay topics will allow you to find a 'however'. It is fine to not challenge the topic, and just to find three valid shared themes/ideas that you can compare to come to a deeper understanding of the essay topic. Your 'analysis' then will not so much from wrestling with the topic, but with identifying interesting similarities and differences, **so that by the end you have come to a deeper understanding of the (shared) themes than you would from reading both texts individually...** (that's the aim of a comparison essay!)