

Compare / Contrast Essay | Assignment

Prepared by Melissa Demski for EN1510

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Assignment: Peer Review with AI

Step 1: Prepare Your Materials

- Have your essay draft ready (typed and complete).
- Have the assignment guidelines and rubric open for reference.
- Look back at your pre-test feedback (if applicable) to see which areas of writing you personally need to focus on.

Step 2: Write a Review Prompt

When you paste your essay into the AI, you also need to give it a clear set of instructions about what kind of feedback you want.

- Use the rubric and guidelines as a checklist.
- Focus on 2–3 areas you want the most help with.

Step 3: Save the Feedback

When the AI generates feedback:

- Copy/paste it into a Word doc, Google doc, or PDF.
- Label it clearly (e.g., “AI Peer Review Feedback for Essay 1”).

Step 4: Respond to the Feedback

After reviewing what the AI gave you, write a short reflection (about 1 paragraph) that answers:

1. What feedback was most helpful?
2. What will you revise as a result?
3. Was there any feedback you disagreed with or chose not to follow—and why?

Step 5: Submit to the Dropbox

Upload three files:

1. Your essay draft
2. The AI feedback document
3. Your reflection paragraph

✅ **Reminder:** The point of this assignment is not to let AI “fix” your essay for you. It’s to use AI as a review partner—to ask smart questions, clarify your thinking, and see your work in a new way. You are still the writer, and you make the final choices.

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Prompt Bank: Ideas for Questions to Ask AI

Use these prompts (or adapt them) when you paste your essay draft into ChatGPT or Claude.

Thesis and Organization

- "Is my thesis statement clear, arguable, and specific? Suggest one way to make it stronger."
- "List my main points in order. Does the structure support the thesis?"
- "Put my comparison points in a table so I can see if they match up evenly."

Evidence and Support

- "Do I use enough evidence to support each main point? Suggest where more might be needed."
- "Check if my quotes are introduced and explained clearly."
- "Does any of my evidence seem off-topic or irrelevant?"

Style, Clarity, and Flow

- "Highlight any sentences that are confusing or unclear, and suggest revisions."
- "Check whether my transitions connect my ideas smoothly."
- "Point out any sentences that sound too repetitive or wordy."

Grammar and Mechanics

- "Proofread my essay for grammar and punctuation errors, especially run-ons and comma splices."
- "Identify three common grammar mistakes I made and explain how to fix them."
- "Check my verb tense consistency throughout the essay."

Audience, Voice, and Purpose

- "Based on my writing, who do you think my audience is? Does my essay actually speak to them?"
- "Describe my voice. Is it suitable for the topic and assignment? How can I improve it?"
- "Does my tone sound consistent throughout? Point out any places where it shifts or doesn't fit."
- "Does my essay show enough critical thinking and analysis, or does it read too much like a summary?"
- "What impression of me as a writer comes through in this essay? How can I strengthen that impression?"

Reflection and Big Picture

- "Does my conclusion connect back to my thesis and leave the reader with a clear takeaway?"
- "What is the strongest part of my essay and why?"
- "What is the weakest part of my essay and how can I improve it?"

Compare / Contrast | Rubric

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Criteria	Exceeds Expectations (High)	Meets Expectations (Proficient)	Needs Improvement (Developing)
Essay Draft (MLA format, with Sources Cited) (10 pts)	Draft is complete, well-developed, and formatted correctly in MLA style with a proper "Sources Cited" page referencing assigned readings. (9–10 pts)	Draft is mostly complete and generally follows MLA style; includes a "Sources Cited" page but may have minor errors or missing elements. (7–8 pts)	Draft is incomplete, missing MLA format, or missing a "Sources Cited" page referencing assigned readings. Very rough or off-topic. (0–6 pts)
Quality of AI Prompt(s) (10 pts)	Prompts are specific, detailed, and connected to rubric/guidelines (e.g., thesis clarity, audience, tone, structure). Shows thoughtful use for deeper analysis (audience, voice, effectiveness). (9–10 pts)	Prompts are general but still relevant to the assignment (e.g., "proofread my essay," "check my thesis"). (7–8 pts)	Prompts are vague/minimal (e.g., "fix my essay"). Little to no alignment with assignment criteria. (0–6 pts)
AI Feedback Submission (10 pts)	Full AI feedback is saved and submitted clearly (Word/Google doc/PDF). Feedback is well-organized and shows meaningful engagement with the draft. (9–10 pts)	AI feedback is submitted but may be incomplete, disorganized, or show limited engagement. (7–8 pts)	AI feedback is missing, incomplete, or not relevant to the draft. (0–6 pts)
Reflection Essay (MLA format, 500 words, with Sources Cited) (15 pts)	Reflection essay is 500+ words, formatted correctly in MLA, with a clear intro, body, and conclusion. Includes a "Sources Cited" page referencing assigned readings. Fully addresses all 3 required areas (helpful feedback, planned revisions, rejected feedback with reasons). Demonstrates critical thinking about AI as a peer review tool. (13–15 pts)	Reflection essay is 400–500 words, generally follows MLA format and essay structure, and includes a "Sources Cited" page with minor issues. Addresses most required areas but may lack depth in places. (10–12 pts)	Reflection is under 400 words, missing MLA format or "Sources Cited," or does not address required areas. Very minimal or off-topic. (0–9 pts)
Overall Engagement (5 pts)	Goes beyond requirements by experimenting with multiple prompt types, applying AI suggestions critically, and demonstrating ownership of revision process. (5 pts)	Meets requirements by using AI, submitting materials, and reflecting on feedback. (3–4 pts)	Minimal effort; unclear if student engaged meaningfully with AI peer review process. (0–2 pts)