

Synthesis Essay Outline – Comparing Style

Name: _____

Assignment Overview

You will create a detailed outline for a synthesis essay comparing the style of:

1. [Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption](#) by Stephen King
2. [The Marrow Thieves](#) by Cherie Dimaline

You are **NOT** writing the full essay. Your outline should include all the parts you would need if you were to expand into a complete synthesis essay later.

What is a Synthesis Essay?

A synthesis essay combines information from two or more sources to create a new, unified idea. It doesn't just summarize each work—it connects them, showing how they are similar, how they differ, and why those similarities/differences matter.

Requirements:

- A thesis statement that makes a clear claim about both works
- Direct quotes from both texts
- Use third person and formal language
- ACE Structure for each paragraph:
 - A – Answer/Assert: Make your point (comparison or contrast)
 - C – Cite: Use a direct quote from each work
 - E – Explain: Show how the evidence supports your point and connects to your thesis

Step 1 – Choose Your Structure

- Option 1: Block Method – Discuss one work fully, then the other, then compare.
- Option 2: Point-by-Point Method – Discuss one style element at a time, comparing both works in the same paragraph.

Step 2 – Optional Planning Organizer

Element of Style	Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption	The Marrow Thieves	Notes on Similarities/Differences & Impact
Diction (word length, sound, connotation)			
Figurative Language (examples & devices)			
Sentence Structure			
Tone/Mood/Voice			

Step 3 – Outline Your Essay (Complete ONE method below or choose your own format). Use point form.

Method A: Block Method

Introduction

Opening Topic Sentence (Include both titles & authors and a brief summary of the texts):

Thesis Statement (Overall claim about the style of both works – your argument):

Body Paragraph 1 – King’s Style (ACE Format)

A – Answer/Assert (Make your first Point):

C – Cite (Direct quote from King – include MLA in-text citation):

E – Explain (How this supports your point and thesis):

Body Paragraph 2 – Dimaline’s Style (ACE Format)

A – Answer (Point):

C – Cite (Direct quote from Dimaline – include MLA in-text citation):

E – Explain (How this supports your point and thesis):

Body Paragraph 3 – Direct Comparison (ACE Format)

A – Answer (Specific similarity/difference you’re arguing):

C – Cite (Quote from King):

C – Cite (Quote from Dimaline):

E – Explain (Connect the two quotes and link back to thesis):

Conclusion

Restate Thesis in New Words:

Works Cited (Use MLA style to cite both sources)

Method B: Point-by-Point Method

Introduction

Opening Topic Sentence (Include both titles & authors and a brief summary of the texts):

Thesis Statement (Overall claim about the style of both works – your argument):

Body Paragraph 1 – Figurative Language (ACE Format)

A – Answer/Assert (Comparison/contrast about figurative language):

C – Cite (Quote from King – MLA in-text):

C – Cite (Quote from Dimaline – MLA in-text):

E – Explain (Effect on imagery/theme & link to thesis):

Body Paragraph 2 – Choose ONE: Sentence Structure / Tone / Mood/Diction (ACE Format)

A – Answer (Comparison/contrast about your chosen element):

C – Cite (Quote from King – MLA in-text):

C – Cite (Quote from Dimaline – MLA in-text):

E – Explain (Impact on pacing/reader experience & link to thesis):

Conclusion

Restate Thesis in New Words:

Final Insight (Why this comparison matters):

Restate Thesis in New Words:

Works Cited (Use MLA style to cite both sources)

Checklist Before Submitting

- I included both titles and authors in the opening sentence
- I wrote a clear thesis that connects both works
- I used direct quotes from each work in every paragraph plan
- I followed ACE structure for each body paragraph plan
- I compared style elements, not plot summaries
- I completed ONE outline method (Block OR Point-by-Point)