Comparative Essay Example:

The Dark Knight compared to

Lord of the Flies

How to write a comparative essay:

1. Always brainstorm / prewrite first
   1. Venn Diagram is the ideal format
2. Write your thesis before you write anything else.
3. Your body paragraphs are generally the best place to start, finish your intro and conclusion after
4. LEAVE IT THE HECK ALONE FOR 3 DAYS
5. Revise and edit your ideas
6. Proofread and peer edit

Comparative Thesis:

The characters in William Golding’s Lord of the Flies (LOTF) and Christopher Nolan’s The Dark Knight (TDK) show that the number of people who are involved in creating human societies affects how those societies create Morality. In LOTF, Piggy, Jack and Ralph, show that morality in society naturally evolves, whereas, in TDK, The Batman, Joker and Two-Face show how society can amplify human action to create more extreme moral principles.

Options to structure ideas:

Pattern A:

**Body 1:**

a. LOTF & TDK Piggy & Batman Characters to create Justice – statement 🡪 evidence 🡪 explanation

Body 2:

b. LOTF & TDK Jack & Joker Characters to create Anarchy 🡪 statement 🡪 evidence 🡪 explanation

Body 3:

c. LOTF & TDK Ralph & Two-Face characters to create neutrality 🡪 statement 🡪 evidence 🡪 explanation

**Body 2:**

a. LOTF Piggy Character to create good moral decision maker, but Batman not necessarily the case – statement 🡪evidence 🡪 explanation

b. LOTF Jack character to create a bad moral decision make, whereas Joker is far beyond evil 🡪 statement 🡪 evidence 🡪 explanation

c. LOTF Ralph as a neutral decision maker, whereas Two-Face relies on chance to make structures 🡪 statement 🡪 evidence 🡪 explanation

Pattern B:

**Body 1:**

1. LOTF Character Piggy to create Morality.
2. LOTF Character Jack to create morality
3. LOTF Character Ralph to create morality.

**Body 2:**

1. TDK Character Batman to create a slightly different morality.
2. TDK Character Joker to create slightly different morality.
3. TDK Character Ralph to create slightly different morality.

PATTERN B Example:

Body 1:

In LOTF, Piggy serves as a representation of moral and just action on the island. When they set out on the island, he is the first to suggest they need a meeting, he is the first to find the conch and he is the first to suggest that a fire is a necessary part of rescue. Piggy is thereby cast as an intelligent moral compass, whose sole purpose is to direct the boys along the path of right action. By contrast, Jack represents the flighty, chaotic, and unjust potential for human action. Jack is only concerned with things that interest him. He hunts instead of doing things that might benefit the group, and he wants to be the group’s leader despite his selfish disposition. His selfish actions even lead him to let the signal fire go out when he elects to go hunting instead of minding the fire. It is clear that Jack is Piggy’s moral opposition, but there is one more character that adds another dimension to this moral spectrum - Ralph. Ralph is neither entirely vicious nor selfish, nor is he single minded in his pursuit of order and justice; his take on things seems to be more neutral. Instead of being a polar representation of justice or chaos, Ralph’s actions do not suggest that he solely identifies with either position. Although he structures the society initially, building shelters, collecting water, and gather food. Ralph quickly forgets the order of the society when Jack’s influence begins to increase. Ralph begins to identify the need for meet.