



"It is in the shelter of each other that the people live." An Irish proverb

Finding Shelter in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*: Comparison-Contrast Essay Overview

What is a comparison-contrast essay?

- When you compare, you are looking at similarities, and when you contrast, you are looking at differences between two topics. A comparison-contrast essay may focus on just similarities, just differences, or a combination of both. The thesis of the essay should make the focus and purpose clear. Comparison-contrast essays are usually structured in two ways or arrangements—"block" or "point-by-point" (also called "alternating") arrangement.
 - An essay with block arrangement discusses all of the points for one item then moves to the next. For example, your essay in a block arrangement would state all of your points about the first item, and then make points about the second item.
 - A point-by-point or alternating formatted essay makes a specific point of comparison of the two items in each paragraph. Your essay in a point-by-point arrangement would discuss a specific comparison/contrast of the two items in a paragraph, as it relates to a specific point you are making.

Try outlining both patterns to determine which structure is most effective for your essay.

The Requirements:

- Typed in standard MLA format (heading, margins, font, size, word count, etc.)
- 500-550 word range (2 to 2.5 pages)
- Content: See rubric on back of page
- Uploaded to Turnitin.com by 11:59 pm on *Friday, October 10, 2014*
- Save your document using a unique name:
 - E.g., "Last Name-1st Initial-ATSS-PartOneandTwoCompareContrastEssay-10-10-2014"

The Prompt:

*Consider the early lives of Mariam and Laila in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. While both women live mere feet from each other, each has had dramatically different life experiences. Yet both women have been affected by the need for protection and shelter from various events and people.*

Invent a Comparison-Contrast Essay in which you analyze the experiences of both women so far in the novel. Develop a strong thesis that addresses the need for shelter and then apply the events of the novel as evidence. Conclude with a strong paragraph that does more than restate your thesis. You want to leave your reader with a deeper understanding of how shelter is necessary for life.