Comparison/Contrast Essay (Stereotypes)

[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&docid=hzwghlvIZ0OaMM&tbnid=PnTDWdFxFYg41M:&ved=0CAUQjRw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.jazzwax.com%2F2009%2F08%2Fsunday-wax-bitx.html&ei=dAvLUt-vHdOFkQfb2ICQCg&bvm=bv.58187178,d.eW0&psig=AFQjCNE0pGoTLZan8yNMR6Uee_7_lGa2uw&ust=1389124676180135)

Due Date of the Essay: within the first 15 minutes of class on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Important Note:

Unfortunately, the instructor cannot grade an essay with inadequate or no parenthetical references and/or with no works cited page. There is no opportunity to rewrite such an essay since students are submitting it during the final exam period.

Also, the instructor cannot grade an essay written about a topic other than the assigned topic. There is no opportunity to rewrite such an essay since students are submitting it during the final exam period.

Finally, the instructor cannot grade an essay that exceeds the required number of pages. There is no opportunity to rewrite such an essay since students are submitting it during the final exam period.

Purposes:

* to reinforce the components of effective writing
* to compose a text that clearly and effectively conveys a message to a reader

Topic:

Select a group of individuals that society often stereotypes (blonde cheerleaders, for example). Then, using either horizontal (point-by-point) or vertical (subject-by-subject) organization, discuss some common stereotypes often associated with selected individuals in that group, and also discuss some individuals in that group who break the common stereotypes. For example, some may stereotype blonde cheerleaders as lacking intelligence, but they do not realize that some of them are high school valedictorians and enter colleges to pursue degrees in law or medicine.

Some possible topics include but are not limited to these:

parents students Catholic priests

grandparents teachers homosexuals

stepmothers blonds or blondes overweight people

the eldest child professional athletes opera stars

the youngest child alcoholics rap artists

an only child gamblers feminists

single parents politicians movie stars

mothers-in-law liberals construction workers

stay-at-home dads conservatives fashion models

Directions:

The essay must have at least 2 pages, and it must total no more than 3 pages. If the essay is only 2 pages in length, then, on the second page, you must fill at least ¾ of the page.

The essay must have these parts:

* an introduction with the thesis statement as the last sentence
* 2-4 developmental paragraphs, each one beginning with a topic sentence
* a conclusion with no new ideas introduced

Do not use borrowed information (quotations or statistics, for example) when you compose your essay. However, if you decide to include such information, then include parenthetical references where appropriate and a works cited page after the last page of the essay. If you are unfamiliar with parenthetical references and works cited pages, schedule an appointment with the instructor.

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Rough Drafts:

You are not required to type a rough draft for the instructor to read and on which to offer feedback. However, the instructor will read typed rough drafts on an individual basis. Schedule an appointment. In addition to rough drafts, the instructor will read other documents, such as outlines, planning activities, and thesis statements.

Points to Consider:

* Plan for the essay before composing the first draft.
* Accept the consequences if you procrastinate.
* Meet with the instructor if you have any questions.
* Use your own words; do not plagiarize.
* Follow MLA format when typing your work. (Consult pages 155-160 in *A Pocket Style Manual*.)
* Take pride in your work!

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