

Comparative Practice

Observations and Suggestions

Formal, academic writing expectations:

For EVERY submission from now on, make sure you:

1. Use the MLA expectations for title page information
2. Give your submission a title that reflects your topic and your text's title.
3. Use in-text citations properly
4. Double space + use size 12 New Times Roman font

REMEMBER

- The goal is to **reach conclusions or form judgements** about something (it may involve assigning a value to something, or it may involve decision making)
- The thesis should reflect this judgement or conclusion that results from comparing or contrasting the texts (or both).

Thesis Observations

- THESIS 1: When comparing “I Don’t Suffer Fools Gladly” by Jeremy Clarkson and “Don’t You Think It’s Time to Start Thinking” by Northrop Frye, Frye gives a much more persuasive speech. **Level 3: big ideas/overall comparison stated**
- THESIS 2: When comparing “I Don’t Suffer Fools Gladly”, by Jeremy Clarkson, and “Don’t You Think It’s Time to Start Thinking”, by Northrop Frye, Frye gives a much more persuasive speech because he includes ethos to support his points, whereas Clarkson’s speech is less credible since he depends on pathos to prove opinions rather than facts. **Why or How is included, so there is added specificity which resulted from more in depth analysis and stronger critical thinking = Level 4?**

SUGGESTION

Make a judgment based on your comparison and state why this judgement is accurate. Include both texts and authors in the thesis statement.

Identify titles correctly:

- Quotes for smaller texts published inside of larger texts
- Italics or underline for texts published on their own

Organization of Ideas in the Body

- Organize your points and proofs (block A, block B; Point A, Point B) in the same order as they are listed in the thesis.
- Use transitional words and phrases to help the reader follow your argument:

Comparison

- in the same way
- by the same token
- similarly
- in like manner
- likewise
- in similar fashion

Contrast

- yet
- and yet
- nevertheless
- nonetheless
- after all
- but
- however
- though
- otherwise
- on the contrary
- in contrast
- notwithstanding
- on the other hand
- at the same time

“Don’t You Think It’s Time to Start Thinking”, by Northrop Frye, is a more persuasive speech than “I Don’t Suffer Fools Gladly”, by Jeremy Clarkson, because Frye develops ethos through diction and supports, whereas Clarkson’s speech is less credible since he relies on humour. Both speeches argue that individuals must demonstrate basic intelligence to contribute effectively to society. For example, Fry states that “it is compulsory to read and write because society must have docile and obedient citizens.” (1), and Clarkson states, “So why do we let stupid people have driving licenses?” (2). Both speakers are highlighting the importance of having basic intellect as contributing citizens, which appeals to the audience’s logic; however, Frye uses diction more effectively through such words as “compulsory”, which creates a feeling of authority and credibility. In contrast, Clarkson uses “stupid” and unprofessional words throughout his speech, which causes the audience to see him as less intelligent and even foolish. The irony in a foolish person complaining about the folly in others calls into question Clarkson’s credibility, which results in less persuasion. In addition, Frye then gives insight into why many individuals seem unintelligent: “Young adolescents today often betray a curious sense of shame about speaking articulately, of framing a sentence with a period at the end of it.” (1). In suggesting that adolescents “betray” “shame” in appearing intelligent, Frye sympathises with his audience and suggests that they are hiding their true intellect, further suggesting that there is hope if the cause of that shame is removed. In doing this, he appears to consider the opposition in a way that appeals to the audience and supports his argument further. Contrarily, Clarkson uses hyperbolic analogies like, “...if you cannot be trusted to get your feces into a bowl...” (Clarkson, 2), which alienates his audience. Furthermore, his use of hyperbole again makes his speech appear humorous rather than factual, which prevents him from developing ethos. Consequently, since Clarkson relies entirely on humouring his audience with bombastic diction and exaggeration, he is less persuasive than Frye’s who gains credibility through his professional language and realistic supports.

Grammar - EDIT FOR:

- ★ Title Identification: quotation marks, underline, or italics
- ★ subject agreements (each, either/or, everyone, everybody, neither/nor, one call for singular pronouns and verbs)
- ★ literary present
- ★ spelling
- ★ formal rules (no contractions, personal or second person pronouns, numerals, slang)
- ★ MLA: proper title on the first page, double space, parenthetical citations punctuated properly, works cited page is not needed as you were not provided with the information needed to complete this.