

Comparative Analysis

A comparative analysis is a paper in which you compare and contrast two items, such as theories, texts, characters, historical figures, and more. A good brainstorming tool is a Venn Diagram. It requires the following elements:

Frame of reference

The Frame of Reference is the context in which you place the two items you plan to compare and contrast; this can be a theme, question, theory, idea, or problem. Think of it as an umbrella under which you have grouped your two items for contrast.

Grounds for comparison

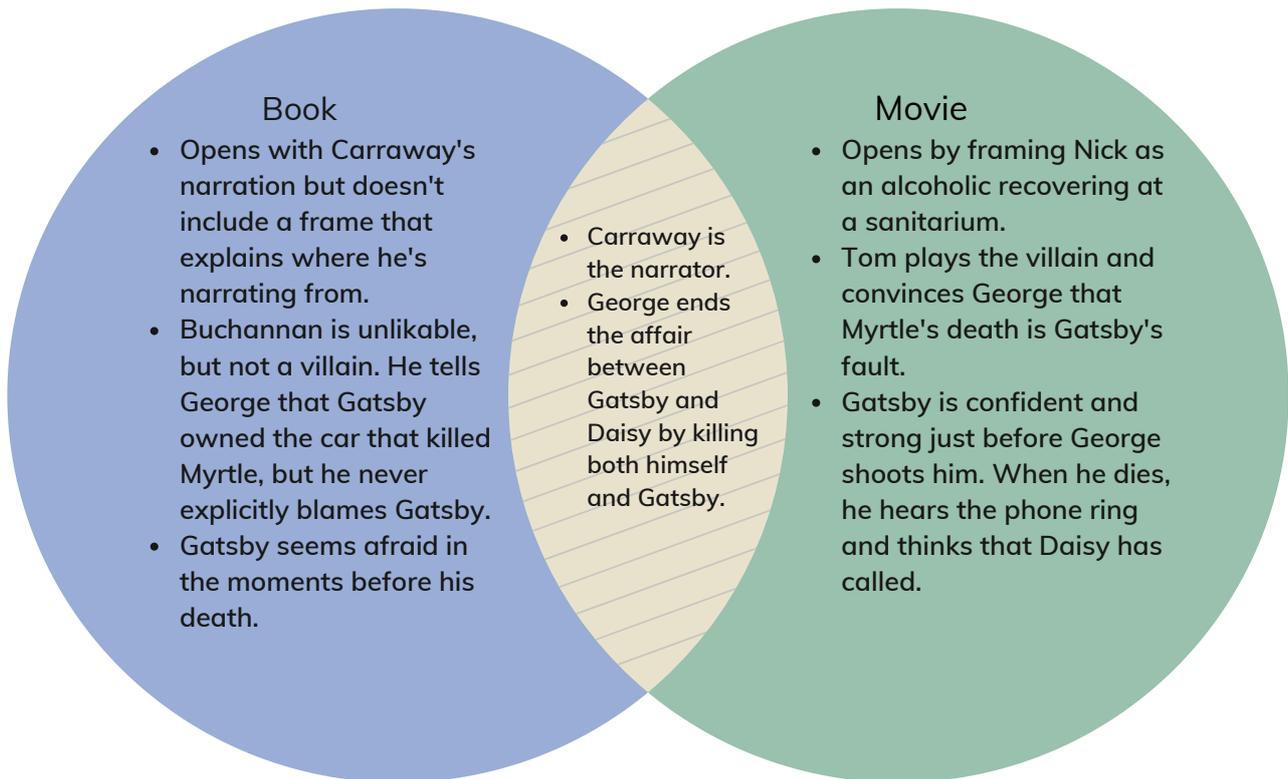
The Grounds for Comparison is your rationale. It lets your reader know why you've selected these two items for comparison and that your choice was deliberate and offers a legitimate perspective.

Thesis

The thesis will indicate the relationship between the two items being compared. As with any argumentative essay, your thesis should convey the entirety of your argument, which includes your frame of reference and grounds for comparison.

Example: The Great Gatsby*

Although Luhrmann's adaptation of *Gatsby* remains faithful to the novel's plot, it utilizes a much flashier and less contemplative tone. Careful analysis of the two works demonstrates the imperfections of cinematizing a work of literature for mainstream audiences.



*Inspiration taken from *Prezi*, *Slate*, and *Cinemablend*.



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