

High School Movies: The Writing Assignment

Option 1:

Compare and contrast your high school life to the high school life of **one of the characters** from *The Breakfast Club*.

Pick at least three categories (social life, friends, parental relationships, personality, **etc.**) and compare the similarities and differences.

Your paper should follow the **point-by-point compare/contrast format**. It needs all the regular elements of an excellent essay: an attention grabber and a solid thesis in your introduction, topic sentences with support and analysis in your body paragraphs, and a strong conclusion.

Be sure to be specific in your body paragraphs when doing your comparisons. Include precise details from the film and then the related facts from your own life.

Option 2:

The movie *The Breakfast Club* portrays the themes of alienation and acceptance in a high school setting. As high school students, individuals are often faced with feelings of isolation and the desire to be accepted within a peer group. The movie depicts several teens from different social groups that go through these types of emotions.

Prompt:

Do you think that this movie accurately depicts the type of isolation and separation that occurs in high school? Explain how the themes of alienation and acceptance work in the film and whether it is true to life.

Your paper should contain the regular elements of an excellent essay: an attention grabber, a solid thesis, well-developed body paragraphs, a clinching conclusion.

Option 3:

Does *The Breakfast Club* offer great or terrible solutions to real teen issues? Analyze the messages of the film and decide if *The Breakfast Club* is a positive or negative in how teens should deal with high school and/or growing up.

Your paper should contain the regular elements of an excellent essay: an attention grabber, a solid thesis, well-developed body paragraphs, a clinching conclusion.

Rubric for Film Essays

Name: _____

	Exceptional	Proficient	Approaching	Well Below
CONTENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction with thesis • Ideas, analysis, & argument • Support & evidence • Conclusion 	<p>Engaging introduction that contains hook. Contains a strong, well defined thesis (last sentence of introductory paragraph!) Paper has direction</p> <p>Thesis well developed, interesting, clear, reasoned, insightful ideas. Ideas show critical thinking and analysis. Shows thorough knowledge of film topic, themes, and/or production values</p> <p>Detailed, accurate, Specific, convincing and appropriate examples/quotations from film. Fully developed throughout essay</p> <p>Stylishly and subtly returns to thesis. Extends main ideas, connects and comments on topic.</p>	<p>Coherent introduction contains some general background info. Clear thesis defined, provides direction for paper</p> <p>Thesis is clear and thoughtful. Some critical thinking and analysis. Shows knowledge of film topic, themes, or production values</p> <p>Sufficient, accurate examples from film. May not be fully developed throughout essay.</p> <p>Returns to thesis and summarizes main points and ideas</p>	<p>Intro is weak, doesn't give reader general background or hook. Thesis is not clearly stated, perfunctory, simple unclear.</p> <p>Thesis is simplistic, inadequately developed, lacking in relevance. Shows limited knowledge of film, theme, or production values</p> <p>Uneven, general, often brief Minimal examples used from film. Not fully developed throughout essay</p> <p>Summarizes previously stated information, effectively concludes but doesn't extend</p>	<p>Vague introduction, reader has little sense of what film is about. No clear thesis, incomplete</p> <p>Thesis is obvious, unsound, or inaccurate. No analysis Doesn't demonstrate knowledge of film, theme, or production values</p> <p>Vague, missing or inappropriate, Little or no examples from film used</p> <p>Absent, incomplete, Fails to conclude, adds nothing in many words</p>
ORGANIZATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follows Format of a good essay. Includes Topic Sentences and Transitions 	<p>Perfectly follows format of essay. Topic sentences clearly related to thesis and comprehensive. Fluid, engaging and varied transitions made between paragraphs</p>	<p>Follows format of essay. Topic sentences are related to thesis. Clear, functional "bridge" transitions made between paragraphs</p>	<p>Somewhat follows essay format. Topic sentences are a restatement of position, narrow or inaccurate, may not be appropriate for paragraph's content Awareness of transitions but seems mechanical or forced.</p>	<p>Doesn't follow format of essay. No topic sentences or not appropriate for paragraph's content. No clear connections between paragraphs</p>
EXPRESSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentence Structure • Vocabulary • Mechanics 	<p>Complete, varied, interesting, evident command of technique, style and grace</p> <p>Varied and sophisticated</p> <p>Contains minimal to no errors in conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization)</p>	<p>Complete and correct, Some style</p> <p>Effective, appropriate to task</p> <p>Contains few minor errors in conventions</p>	<p>Some variety, some errors present</p> <p>Adequate, uneven "Thesaurus syndrome"</p> <p>Contains errors that are distracting or cause confusion</p>	<p>Repetitious, fragments and run-on's frequent</p> <p>Limited, monotonous, inappropriate, uses lazy words</p> <p>Many convention errors which interfere with communication and/or meaning</p>
RESOURCES	<p>Works Cited complete and in proper format. Film is properly cited.</p>	<p>Works Cited is complete, with minor errors. Film is cited.</p>	<p>Works Cited is complete, not in proper format. Film is cited.</p>	<p>Works Cited is incomplete Film not cited.</p>

