Compare & Contrast Essay

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|  | **Exceeds Expectations** | **On Target** | **Needs Improvement** |
| **Content** | The essay includes at least two comparisons and two contrasts for the two books. The ideas are connected to the deeper meaning of the characters and themes of the stories. The ideas are supported with meaningful quotes that come from both stories. | The essay includes comparisons and contrasts for the two books, but there may be very few. The ideas come from the text, but they may not get to the deeper meaning of the texts. The ideas are supported with some quotes, but may not be meaningful or may not come from both stories. | The essay might compare or contrast, but not both. There may be very little evidence or quotes to support the ideas presented. The quotes might be the majority of the writing in the essay with very little original writing presented. |
| **Organization** | The essay includes four paragraphs: an introductory paragraph, a similarities paragraph, a differences paragraph, and a concluding paragraph. Each paragraph is indented and includes at least three sentences about the topic.  | The essay includes four paragraphs; however, the paragraphs may not be indented or may only include 1-2 sentences. | The essay is missing one or more paragraphs. |
| **Transitions** | The essay uses compare and contrast transition words to make the writing flow smoothly and connect ideas. The essay uses a variety of transition words. | The essay uses transitional words, but there is very little variety. The essay uses transition words to connect ideas. | The transitions between ideas are unclear or nonexistent. |
| **Grammar & Spelling** | There are almost no errors in mechanics, usage, or spelling | There are only a few errors in mechanics, usage, or spelling. | There are several errors in mechanics, usage, or spelling that begin to distract the reader from the content.  |
| **Presentation** | The essay is typed or neatly handwritten on regular 8.5 x 11 paper or notebook paper. The rubric is attached to the essay with a paper clip or one staple. | The essay is typed or neatly handwritten on regular 8.5 x 11 paper or notebook paper. The rubric may not be attached. | The essay is difficult to read. The rubric is not included. The essay is written on smaller or larger than normal paper. |