ASSIGNMENT: (Due Feb 5)

In an essay of about 750 words (typed, double spaced), compare (explore the similarities) or contrast (explore the differences) between two people, two places, two ideas, two events, two distinct times, or two things.

“A good essay in comparing or contrasting,” writes X.J. Kennedy, “serves a purpose,” either by better understanding both subjects by analyzing them side by side, or by better evaluating both subjects. Remember to include in your introduction why it is important to make this comparison/contrast in a Thesis Statement that both identifies your subject and previews the purpose of your narrative (216). Finally, choose a clear organizational pattern, either subject-by-subject (216) or point-by-point (217).

Good comparison/contrast essays:
- Explore subjects that have enough in common to be compared or contrasted
- Serve a purpose (to make a decision or to analyze the subject)
- Present several important points of comparison/contrast in the analysis
- Arrange the points in an effective organizational plan

Guidelines:
- Choose a topic that really lends itself to the comparison and contrast model.
- Begin with an introduction that engages your reader.
- Compose a thesis statement that clarifies your topic and identifies whether you’ll be focusing your analysis on the similarities (comparison) or differences (contrasts).
- Include your purpose in your introduction (will you be analyzing or evaluating?).
- Choose an organizational pattern that best fits your content.
- Conclude persuasively. What final insight do you want your reader to have? Has your thesis changed?
- Use in-text citations and a “Works Cited” list if you use outside sources.

Learning Outcomes
- Use your narrative and descriptive writing skills in an analytic essay.
- Design your essay by using patterns that create the important comparative/contrast distinctions.
- Optional: Use outside reading sources in your essay.
- Optional: Document your sources using in-text citations and a Works Cited page.
COMPARISON CONTRAST ESSAY CALENDAR

WEEK THREE
Wed Jan 22: Narrative Postscript
            Compare/Contrast assignment introduction
            Journal: Observation notes

Fri Jan 24: READ: Comparison and Contrast, pages 212-222.
            “Neat People,” p 223-226 & Britt on Writing, p 227-228
WRITE: “Writing Strategy” #1 (225) & Language #1 & 2 (226)
READ: “Batting Clean-Up” & Barry on Writing p 229-233
WRITE: “Strategy” #1 (231) & Language #1, #2, #3, #4
In class: Writing Ex #2: Outline & Draft “Observation notes” (bring disk)

WEEK FOUR
Mon Jan 27: READ: “Using and Documenting Sources, p 49-70
In class: LIBRARY TOUR (meet in Library Classroom)

WRITE: Strategy #1 (239) & Language #2, #3, #4
READ: “Grant & Lee” & On Writing p242-248
WRITE: Strategy #5, #6 (246) Language #1, #2, #3, #4, #5
In class: Comparison/Contrast Outline

Fri Jan 31: Documentation workshop
            Paraphrase, Summarize, Quote and In-Text Citations

WEEK FIVE
Mon Feb 3: Peer Review Workshop: Bring best essay draft to class for review.

Wed Feb 5: DUE: Final Draft Comparison Contrast Essay Please follow the usual procedure of including all work in your final folder – prewriting, outlining, drafting, revising, editing. Also, include photocopies of sources you have summarized or cited. Highlight or underline the passages that you have summarized, paraphrased, or directly quoted.