

# Comparison/Contrast Essay Introduction Sample

When bodies feature in literature, they often show relationships between gender and power

In *Frankenstein* (1818), Mary Shelley shows how Victor Frankenstein's quest for Perfection drives him to create life synthetically in his workshop rather than biologically. When his creation desires a mate, however, Frankenstein refuses to create one, so the creature takes revenge, destroying both himself and Frankenstein.

**In contrast**, in Fay Weldon's *The Life and Loves of a She-Devil* (1983) a woman physically transforms herself, through years of surgery, into the image of her husband's mistress to take revenge on him. As a result, she regains control in her marriage by dominating her husband using her new beauty and power.

**While** over a hundred and fifty years separate these two novels, **both explore** how the body serves as an important site for revenge.

**However, whereas Shelley illustrates** the destructive effects when one is deprived of companionship, **Weldon demonstrates** how marital companionships are often about one party dominating another.

Broad intro statement.

Brief explanation of the points that the first work conveys.

Brief explanation of the points that the next work conveys.

\*Use key transitional words such as "in contrast," "while," and "however" to show any shifts in thought.

A comparison of the two works and a thesis explaining the significance of the similarities and differences.

A statement acknowledging the similarities between the works without actually saying "the novels are similar."