

Literature in the Bible: Compare & Contrast Essay

John 10: The Good Shepherd

This lesson may be used to introduce the compare/contrast essay concept, or simply to review the process.

GRADE LEVEL

8-11

TIME REQUIREMENT

1-2 Periods (50 min each), depending on how much time given students to work in class

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Review methods of how to compare & contrast
- Identify and explore the comparisons and contrasts Jesus makes between Himself as the "Good Shepherd" and a regular shepherd in John 10.
- Organize material into outline form
- Synthesize material into an essay (3-5 paragraphs)

JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE CONNECTIONS

- Acceptance of God
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Intellectual Development
- Communication Skill
- Personal Management
- Aesthetic Appreciation

MATERIALS

- ✓ Overhead of Venn diagram (students can be instructed to draw this)
- ✓ Copies of John 10
- ✓ Different colors of highlighters (or pens/pencils)
- ✓ Sample outline (for teacher reference, overhead, or copying)

ACTIVITY

Review

1. Explore with students the difference between *comparing* and *contrasting*

Explore

1. Using the highlighters, have students read through John 10, marking comparisons Jesus makes in one color, and then marking the contrasts He makes in another color

Organize

1. Have students transfer the differences and similarities into a Venn diagram
2. Students should then select two contrasts **OR** two comparisons (**NOT** both) Jesus makes between Himself and a regular Palestinian shepherd
3. Next, organize the material into outline form (see sample; guide; help students as they decide how to organize their outline material; if not already done, teacher may need to teach students how to format outlines)

Synthesize

1. Write the essay, beginning with the body (this lesson/material can be used as a lead-in to writing an essay—i.e. teaching students to explain contrasts/comparisons in solid paragraphs—instead of going for the entire essay)

INTEGRATIVE OR FOLLOW-UP LESSONS

- Thesis statement development
- Introduction development (funnel, etc.)
- Paragraph development
- Transitional words and phrases
- Conclusion development

Good Shepherd Essay

Basic Outline

I. Introduction

- A. Hook
- B. Thesis statement

II. Body

- A. First Contrast/Comparison – topic sentence
 - 1. Supporting evidence
 - 2. Supporting evidence
- B. Second Contrast/Comparison – topic sentence
 - 1. Supporting evidence
 - 2. Supporting evidence
- C. Third Contrast/Comparison – topic sentence
 - 1. Supporting evidence
 - 2. Supporting evidence

III. Conclusion

- A. Summary of points
- B. Restate thesis
- C. Final comment

John 10 (NIV)

The Good Shepherd

1"I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. **2**The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. **3**The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4**When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. **5**But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." **6**Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

7Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. **8**All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. **9**I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. **10**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

11"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12**The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. **13**The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

14"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—**15**just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16**I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. **17**The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. **18**No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."