

# Are We Too Blind to Hear the Truth?

Comparison/Contrast Essay

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## The Beginning and the End

The **introductory paragraph** should contain several elements that help set up the point that the essay writer is trying to make about the comparison. Examine the introductory paragraph of “Are We Too Blind to Hear the Truth” to identify the parts that you need to include in your own introductory paragraph.

<p><b>Hook your reader by attacking the Issue &amp; the shared underlying message: noting Title, Author, Setting, and brief overview of plot.</b></p>	<p>→ <b>A wise man once noted, “If one truly wishes to experience truth, he must be willing to see beyond his own limitations.” “The Wise Men and the Elephant” and Ed Young’s “Seven Blind Mice” both explore this idea, a condition many of us fail to see in ourselves...blindness, not the kind that comes from damage to the eyes, but the kind that comes from the limitations of our own point-of-view. <u>Even though both of these stories share a similar exploration of a common human problem, the wise men leave the reader to figure out the solution for themselves while the mice offer a smarter approach and a clearer solution to that problem.</u></b></p>
<p><b>Author’s Point or Theme</b></p>	
<p><b>Thesis Statement</b> This is the essay writer’s point. It literally answers the question asked in the writing prompt: <u>What is the relationship between these two versions of Buck’s story, and what is suggested by their differences?</u></p>	

You want to make sure that you plan the elements above into your introductory paragraph. Once you have your essay planned, you will use the areas of **Major Support** to construct your thesis statement. You also want to word your thesis statement so that it establishes the organization of the rest of the essay.

The introduction above is certainly not as good as it *could* be. Consider the body of this paper, and then highlight one of the three parts of this introduction to improve. Write your improvements below.  
*Hint: One of the suggested parts isn’t actually even represented in this introduction. Can you identify which one it is?*

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The **conclusion paragraph** is where you drive home your overall point. Once you get there, you will have made three individual observations relationship between the movie and the novel. In your conclusion you *clarify* the **overall** point that you are making about these two versions of Buck’s story. Although this includes a restatement of your thesis, you want to avoid sounding repetitive.

<p><b><u>Impact of Differences &amp; Restatement of Thesis</u></b>          This is where the essay writer reflects on the significance of the differences and reemphasizes his/her main point.</p>	→	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>In “The Wise Men and the Elephant,” the men never accomplish what the mice do because none of them do what the white mouse did, to simply listen to the ideas of the others. Interestingly, most of the mice also suffered from this condition. These two stories may share much in common, but the mice have something that the group of men doesn’t, one member who listens to all of the others before coming to her own conclusions. <u>All of us occasionally suffer from the type of blindness experienced by the characters in these stories. Sometimes it’s hard listen to ideas that seem to be different from what we “know” to be right. However, if we can listen thoughtfully like the white mouse, we may discover a truth that is bigger than what we thought we knew. And in doing so, we may help others see that we all have something to learn from each other...that is if we are not too blind to listen.</u></b></p>
<p><b><u>Thematic Extension</u></b>          Attempt to extend that theme to real life in order to show the continuing relevance of the author’s point.</p>		
<p><b><u>Clincher</u></b>          Final observation or extension of the message of these two pieces to the reader’s life.</p>		

Your conclusion should contain the parts above. This is the last impression you will make on your reader, so take the time to make a strong one.

The conclusion from “Are We Too Blind to Hear the Truth” isn’t bad, but it certainly contains room for improvement. Select one of the parts of the conclusion to improve. Write your revision beside that part below. Take notes on other suggested improvements as your classmates share their results.

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