

# ESSAY ASSIGNMENT AND GRADING RUBRIC

## THE ASSIGNMENT

For this assignment, you will be writing a **Comparison Essay**. Think of the selection you have read from *Godey's Lady's Book*. Think of the chapters read in *Behind a Mask*. Think of the authors' messages and the themes of critical literacy. (Look back at the CRITICAL LITERACY handout for guiding questions).

Ask yourself:

- What do you think is similar in these works in terms of author's purpose, voice, etc.?
- What is different in these pieces (again think critically!)?
- What are the authors' messages to their readers?

Your essay should be a well-organized essay, and should include:

- An introduction with your opinion as to how these pieces are the same and how they are different
- A body that includes:
  - At least two ways that the materials read are alike
  - At least two ways that the materials read are different
  - Specific examples and citations from the text
  - References to aspects of critical literacy (see the CRITICAL LITERACY handout)
- A conclusion that restates and supports your opinion



<b>ESSAY GRADING RUBRIC</b>	<b>Exceeds Expectations</b>	<b>Meets All Expectations</b>	<b>Meets Some Expectations</b>	<b>Below Expectations</b>
<b>CONTENT</b>				
Does the student state a clear opinion?				
Does the opinion show evidence of critical thinking?				
Does the essay compare the two selections?				
Has the student incorporated aspects of critical literacy (such as those listed on the handout)?				
Is the student's idea thoughtful, creative, and original?				
<b>MECHANICS</b>				
Do the paragraphs address the organizing questions of the assignment?				
Is the writing grammatically correct?				
Is the spelling correct?				
Is the punctuation correct?				
<b>STUDENT PARTICIPATION</b>				
Did the student participate in class discussions?				
Did the student use research time effectively?				
Was the student able to select an appropriate piece to analyze from Godey's without assistance?				
Was the essay turned in on time?				
Is it evident from the student's essay and class participation that the student understands concepts of critical literacy?				

Overall, the student's essay and participation are:

**Outstanding**

**Above Average**

**Passing**

**Below Expectations**