

Student's Name
 Teacher's Name
 ENG4U
 Date

Compare and Contrast Essay Outline (for submission)

Essay question: Who showed greater resilience: Oedipus or Hamlet?

Introductory Paragraph	
<p>General opening statement Your opening statement should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pique the interest of the audience with a question or startling fact • provide brief, factual background information 	<p>Death and grief can upset a person's life in more ways than one and cause unending trauma and mental torture.</p> <p>Both Shakespeare and Sophocles base their main characters, Hamlet and Oedipus, respectively on tragedies and patricide. Hamlet seeks revenge for his father, King Hamlet's murder and Oedipus seeks his father, King Laius killer. They both face tragic loss and grief which causes them mental torture.</p>
<p>Thesis statement Your statement should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state your point of view on a topic • be concise • clearly describe what your essay will prove 	<p>While both Hamlet and Oedipus express resilience in their quest to find their father's killers, they also exhibit different degrees of resilience.</p> <p>Hamlet displays more determination and resilience by fulfilling his vengeance plot than Oedipus who gives up once he realizes he fulfilled the fated prophecy of doom. This essay will seek to show that Hamlet and Oedipus show resilience in varying degrees in their quest for the truth but their hamartia leads them to their ultimate downfall.</p>
Body paragraph 1	
<p>First criterion for comparison:</p> <p>Your supporting examples from Oedipus Rex should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state one or two examples related to the thesis 	<p>The determination to seek the truth</p> <p>Oedipus lives in a world full of secrets. He seeks the truth to King Laius's murder when he says, "I'll do everything I can. With the god's help / this will all come to light</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide evidence and explanation for each supporting example 	<p>successfully,” (Sophocles and Johnston 175-176).</p> <p>Oedipus shows determination and resilience when he chooses to seek whether the prophecy is true or false, with the knowledge it could turn out to be true. He momentarily overcomes his fears and chooses to seek the truth. He displays resilience just by deciding to find out if the prophecy is true.</p>
Body Paragraph 2	
<p>Your supporting examples from Hamlet should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state one or two examples related to the thesis • provide evidence and explanation for each supporting example 	<p>Hamlet expresses his grief due to his father’s death when he says, “But I have that within which passes show; / These but the trappings and the suits of woe” (Shakespeare 1.2.88-89). Despite wallowing in this grief, when he encounters his father’s ghost, he chooses to seek the truth about his father’s murder.</p>
Body Paragraph 3	
Second criterion for comparison	Stubborn and strong character
<p>Your supporting examples from Oedipus Rex should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state one or two examples related to the thesis provide evidence and explanation for each supporting example 	<p>Oedipus says, “I’ll do everything I can. With the god’s help / this will all come to light successfully,” (Sophocles and Johnston 175-176).</p> <p>Oedipus chooses to seek King Laius’s murderer. He offers his service to ensure King Laius is avenged and the plague in Thebes lifted.</p>
Body paragraph 4	
Third criterion for comparison:	Causing their own demise

<p>Your supporting examples from Oedipus Rex should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state one or two examples related to the thesis • provide evidence and explanation for each supporting example 	<p>However, his resilience and determination are short-lived once he discovers that King Laius is his father and the man he killed on the road. He agonizes saying, “Poor wretched Oedipus, your fate stands here to demonstrate for me / how no mortal man is ever blessed” (Sophocles and Johnston 1429-1431).</p> <p>Oedipus finds out the truth about his fate, he blinds himself by stabbing out his own eyes.</p>
<p>Your supporting examples from Hamlet should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state one or two examples related to the thesis • provide evidence and explanation for each supporting example 	<p>Hamlet’s choices lead him to his own death, even if he avenges his father. His vengeance is fulfilled when he says to Claudius, “Here, thou incestuous, murd’rous, damnèd Dane, / Drink off this potion. Is thy union here? / Follow my mother” (Shakespeare 5.2356-358). Hamlet does displays resilience throughout the entire play, by following up with his plan to avenge his father even in his dying time. However, his flaws and faults</p>
Concluding paragraph	
<p>Your conclusion should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restate your thesis • summarize your three criteria for comparison • provide a closing insight 	<p>In conclusion, Hamlet is more successful in dealing with the truth and enacting his vengeance. Despite Hamlet exhibiting a greater resilience and willpower than Oedipus to face hardships, they both meet their tragic endings by a hamartia.</p>