

For this assignment, you will write an analytical essay comparing and/or contrasting two or more of the stories we've read so far this trimester (by Bradbury, Calvino, and/or Miller). You may reference and reuse elements from your response papers. Center your thesis statement around comparing/contrasting a theme you've identified, character, relationship, exploration of space or time, setting, or narrative technique.

STRUCTURE: The essay should be a **minimum of 4 full paragraphs (minimum 6 sentences per paragraph)** and follow this structure:

- **Introductory paragraph:** Introduce your topic and briefly explain background info your reader needs to know. Imagine the reader of your essay has not read the pieces you are discussing, so give a brief synopsis and introduce the titles and authors. Include an engaging hook to draw the reader in. The last line of your intro paragraph should be your thesis statement: a clear sentence explaining an argument you will make with supporting examples throughout the essay.
- **Body paragraphs:** Dedicate at least one body paragraph to each reading and include specific quotes and examples to support your thesis. (Required! One quote per body paragraph is recommended.) Explain your own analysis and insights into the significance of these examples.
- **Concluding paragraph:** Tie together and compare/contrast your examples from the reading in a manner that connects back to your thesis statement, perhaps in a way that sheds new light on it, adds nuance, or simply affirms your argument. Add any final analysis and leave the reader with a clear takeaway.

FORMAT: Formatting guidelines are based on MLA standards, and a more detailed reference guide can be found here (also linked on HW Hub):

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/index.html

- The essay must be typed in double-spaced Times New Roman 12-point font with standard 1-inch margins.
- Include a header in the top right corner with your last name followed by the page number.
- Include a heading on the top left with your name, my name (Maryann Ullmann), the course title (Speculative Fiction) and the date (i.e. 16 January 2025).
- Include an original title, centered under the heading, that alludes to the topic of your essay.
- Structure your essay as indicated above and indent the beginning of each paragraph with no extra space between paragraphs.
- Include in-text citations after quotes with the author last name and page number in parentheses. For example: (Miller 6).
- Proofread your essay for grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- Print a hard copy or email it to me at MaryannU@school-one.org no later than class time on Thursday, January 16th.