Examples of Introductions and Thesis Statements for Comparison/Contrast Essay

You may use the structure of any of the thesis statements, but you must write your own introduction:

Remember to include the full names of the authors and the titles of the essays (in quotation marks). This will occur in the introduction. Notice the two ways I approach this.

C/C -Colonial Rule and Jim Crow Laws

Example:

Introduction

History has recorded the negative effects of colonial rule and the Jim Crow Laws on various peoples. The writer Shirley Geok-lin Lim writes about British rule in Malaysia in “Pomegranates and the English Language” and how it affected her childhood and especially her self-image. In “Black Boy,” Richard Wright discusses the exclusionary effects of Jim Crow when he attempts to perform a seemingly innocent act—check out books from a library.

Thesis: Each writer reveals the long-term consequences of living under oppressive conditions. When comparing their individual situations, two aspects emerge: colonial rule and Jim Crow are systematic or institutionalized, and they damage the person’s sense of identity or self-esteem.

C/C Language Acquisition

Example:

Introduction

To acquire a language, the student must have access to the necessary resources—teachers, texts, and technology; in addition, the student needs time to study and practice in a safe environment that is supportive and judgment free. In the short essays “Pomegranates and the English Language” and “Black Boy,” Shirley Geok-lin Lim and Richard Wright discuss their experiences learning English.
**Thesis:** For Shirley, the language is imposed upon her as a result of British rule. For Wright, the language is withheld from him as a result of the Jim Crow Laws.

**Conclusions:** Examples

**Colonial Rule and Jim Crow**

Even though both individuals went on to become celebrated writers and in Wright’s case, a prominent member of the American Literary Canon, we must never forget their difficult and painful journeys.

**Language Acquisition**

Learning a common language can be liberating; however, because language acquisition is so personal, care must be taken with each individual to guard against emotional and intellectual harm. Both writers had different learning experiences, but they suffered a common consequence: their self-esteem was damaged.

**Remember to keep it short and sweet!**