

Professor Stephanie Packer
College Preparation – ENC 0021 – Writing Level 3

Lesson Plan

Comparison and Contrast Essay – State Park and Surrounding Urban Development

Summary: Students will write a five-paragraph essay comparing and contrasting the natural and man-made environments of the surrounding urban area near Oleta State Park.

Objectives:

- Within the larger comparison and contrast mode, students will demonstrate at least three other techniques of content development, such as narration, description, exemplification, process, or cause-effect.
- Students will demonstrate an awareness in their essays of the ecosystems of Oleta River State Park, such as the mangrove systems and aquatic environment
- Students will reflect on the messages they personally receive from the surrounding urban area and those they receive from the Oleta environment
- Students will comment on the sustainability of the urban area with particular regard to water resources

Procedure:

Students visit one of the many enclosed malls in the area surrounding the Oleta River State Park. Taking notes and/or capturing images, they observe the messages the commercial, developed area is giving them about the requirements for happiness. What constitutes expected norms of consumer behavior?

Students then visit Oleta River State Park, ideally including both trails and the aquatic environment. Taking notes and/or capturing images, they observe what they are experiencing in the natural environment. How does “success” in the natural environment compare and contrast with that of the commercial environment? What are the contrasting requirements for happiness in the natural environment?

Finally, students will process their experience over several days in small discussion groups in class. For the culminating activity, they will write a five-paragraph point-by-point or subject-by-subject comparison-contrast essay on their experience. The thesis statement should include an honest observation about which environment they feel most at home in, and why.