

PART ONE: Comparison/Contrast *Cyrano de Bergerac* to *Roxanne*

As you watch Steve Martin's treatment of the classic story, keep track of special scenes that seem to be an updated transfer of the original. Write in briefly the description that matches. Certain scenes in the newer version may appear out of order from the original.

Cyrano

Roxanne

1. Christian confesses love for Roxanne to a friend and she seems interested, too.
2. Cyrano humiliates a bad actor
3. Cyrano trades insults with a bully then duels with him while creating a poem.
4. Cyrano confesses to his friend LeBret that he loves Roxane, but is too ugly to woo her. LeBret advises Cyrano to tell her.
5. Roxane's duenna arranges for Cyrano to meet Roxane.
6. Cyrano fights droves of men to protect his poet friend.
7. Cyrano meets Roxane and she confides her love of Christian to him. Cyrano promises to protect Christian from the other cadets.
8. Cyrano insults DeGuiche, who has offered Cyrano his patronage.

Cyrano

Roxanne

9. Christian, to impress the guards, tries to goad Cyrano into a duel. Cyrano, finding out who he is, restrains himself.
10. Cyrano and Christian concoct a "recipe" for a romantic hero. Cyrano offers to help Christian win Roxane.
11. DeGuiche tries to pressure Roxane into an affair by telling her he is leaving for war. She avoids him.
12. Roxane confides to Cyrano that she is very impressed by Christian's words of love and his letters. She considers him not only handsome, but brilliant and romantic.
13. Christian nobly wants to stop using Cyrano's words. Cyrano reluctantly leaves Christian alone with Roxane.
14. Christian sounds and looks like a fool when he tries to talk to Roxane without Cyrano's help.
15. Cyrano helps Christian patch up the mess by standing under the balcony and talking to Roxane in Christian's place. His words this night are so honest and beautiful that he wins Roxane completely and Christian climbs up to her to receive the glory.

Cyrano

Roxanne

- 16. DeGuiche sends word to Roxane via a priest that he is returning, so Roxane resourcefully plans to marry Christian

- 17. Cyrano pretends to be a space traveller. His outrageous story is a ruse to delay DeGuiche and allow the Christian and Roxane time to wed.

- 18. DeGuiche, upon finding out how he has been duped, orders all the men to the front of the war. Christian and Roxane will be separated. Cyrano promises Roxane that she will receive letters from Christian.

PART TWO: *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *Roxanne* -- CONTRASTS

After the lovers part and Cyrano/ C.D. writes letters for Christian, the plots of the two stories diverge greatly. On the left side of the paper, keep track of major happenings in the original story. On the right side, keep track of the major outcomes of the modern version.

Cyrano

Roxanne

Cyrano

Roxanne

Now is the time to focus on the endings of each. How do they differ? Does the ending make each a tragedy? or a comedy? or some other genre?

Essay: Comparison and Contrast
Topic: *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *Roxanne*
Length: Four paragraphs minimum

Read this before you write:

When you compare, you explain how two or more things are alike. When you contrast, you explain their differences. You will be doing both of these with the play and movie listed above.

Use the guidelines below to help organize your ideas. Use the pre-writing worksheets we filled out in class to remind yourself of major points of comparison and contrast.

You will turn in your rough draft to me at the end of this period. You will get a grade for what you have written. Do not ask me what you should write. See the plan below for all the help you need.

1st paragraph -- Introduction. Familiarize us with both stories, by title and author. Mention the common theme of both stories. Mention the fact that one is a modernized version of the other. You might also mention the fact that one is a comedy while the other is not. **BE SURE TO END THIS PARAGRAPH WITH A THESIS SENTENCE THAT INCLUDES BOTH OF YOUR MAIN POINTS. DECIDE ON THE THESIS SENTENCE BEFORE YOU WRITE ANYTHING ELSE!**

2nd paragraph -- 1st main point. This will be how both stories are similar in the beginning. You will give details from both stories (characters, ideas, specific parts of the plot) that are alike. You will use the information from the Part One of the worksheet.

3rd paragraph -- 2nd main point. This paragraph will state how both versions of the story are also very different. You will concentrate on important character differences, the obvious differences in setting, and the way the two plots end so differently. You will use the information from the Part Two of the Worksheet.

4th paragraph -- Conclusion. Restating your reworded thesis idea, you will summarize the idea that these two versions have many things in common, but also have their differences. You will now proceed to explain why you preferred one over the other, OR, if you found them equally appealing, you will address their different strong points. **YOU DECIDE.**