**ESSAY 03 • SELF-EDIT CHECKLIST**

COMPARE

□ essay united by comparison, occasionally concedes differences

ORGANIZATION – answers “so what?”

Introduction

□ two or three brief, clear and specific sentences

NO inverted pyramid of vague generalities!

□ final sentence of intro has a thesis statement that shows importance of argument

NOT *telling* how important the topic is (closed question, value judgment: “very”),

Instead DO *show* how the topic is important (open question, explanation)

NOT description “we will discuss these texts,” “some are similar, some are different”

Instead DO answer/solve the how/why question (“because” state or implied)

Body

□ five to six paragraphs of a few brief, clear and specific sentences

□ each paragraph has ONE point (sub-thesis) that supports the main argument (thesis)   
NOT *retelling* the narrative but *showing* how the paragraph topic is important

□ organization by TOPIC (sub-thesis), not by author/text)

REFERENCES—answers “says who?”

□ around 13-15 citations, with very few *short* quotations  
 NOT long block quotes

□ demonstrates breath of reading with citations drawn from a range of sources

NOT just one or two adjacent lines

LENGTH

□ meets word limit (1000 +/-20)  
 NB citations in parentheses should not count toward total