Name:_____ Date:_____

Success Center
Directed Learning Activity

EMLS 100
Writing Assignment 5A

EMLS100.9

Description: This is your fifth and final writing assignment. Follow the instructions as before.

STEP ONE: Pre-Reading Activity
Answer the following questions:

1. What do you know about online courses in college? Have you ever taken an online class? Are there online courses in your country?

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_____

_____

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2. What do you think would be a benefit of taking online classes?

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. What do you think would be a disadvantage of taking online classes?

_____

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_____

STEP TWO:
Read the following article. Circle any new words that you don't know. Don't use a dictionary to look them up, but try to guess the meanings based on the context.

Is Online Learning as Good as Face-to-Face Learning?

Jack London was the subject in Daterrius Hamilton's online English 3 course. In a high school classroom packed with computers, he read a brief biography of London with single-paragraph excerpts from the author's works.

But the curriculum did not require him, as it had generations of English students, to wade through a tattered copy of "Call of the Wild" or "To Build a Fire."

Mr. Hamilton, who had failed English 3 in a conventional classroom and was hoping to earn credit online to graduate, was asked a question about the meaning of social Darwinism. He pasted the question into Google and read a summary of a Wikipedia entry. He copied the language, spell-checked it and e-mailed it to his teacher.

Mr. Hamilton, 18, is among the expanding ranks of students in kindergarten through Grade 12 — more than one million in the United States, by one estimate — taking online courses.

Advocates of such courses say they allow schools to offer, not only makeup courses, the fastest-growing area, but also a richer menu of electives and Advanced Placement classes when there are not enough students to fill a classroom.

But critics say online education is really driven by a desire to spend less on teachers and buildings, especially as state and local budget crises force deep cuts to education. They note that there is no sound research showing that online courses at the K-12 level are comparable to face-to-face learning.

From "More Pupils Are Learning Online, Fueling Debate on Quality" by Trip Gabriel

STEP THREE: Post-Reading Activity

Answer the following comprehension questions. Use complete sentences.

a. What class is Mr. Hamilton taking online? What author is he studying?

b. What do critics say about online classes, according to the article?

STEP FOUR: Vocabulary

Choose three new words from the article and write them down below. Write the definition of each word. You may use a dictionary.

STEP FIVE: Preparing to Write a Paragraph

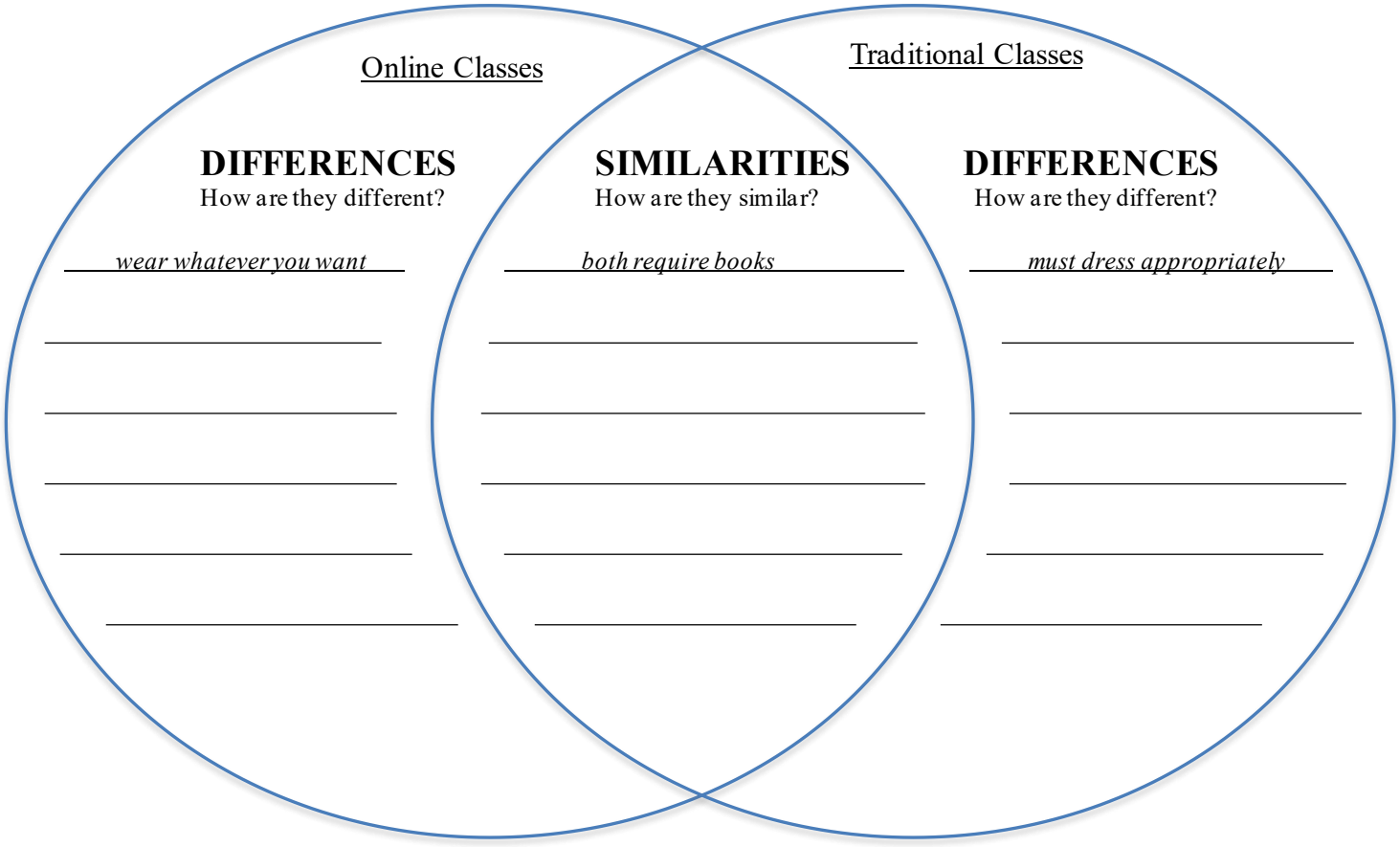
TOPIC:

You are going to write a comparative/contrast paragraph. "Compare" means to describe the similarities between two things. "Contrast" means to describe the differences. In this assignment, you will be describing the differences between regular in-class instruction and online classes.

I. PREWRITING: Use the diagram below to brainstorm differences and similarities. Remember that you are describing online classes and regular in-class instruction.

PART 1

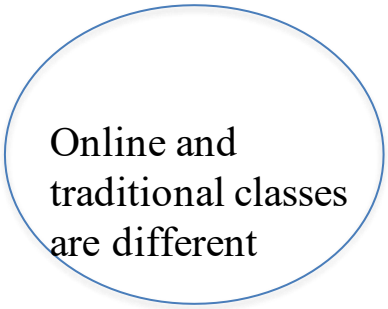
The diagram below is called a Venn diagram. Do you see where the two circles over lap? In that space, list the things that you think are similar between online classes and traditional classes. In the outside part of the left circle, list some of the ways that online classes are different from traditional classes. In the outside part of the right circle, list how traditional classes are different from online classes. The first ones are done for you.



Prewriting (Cont.)

PART 2:

When you write a comparison/contrast paragraph, you can choose whether you will write about the similarities or differences. For this paragraph, it will be easier to write about the differences. Use the space below to brainstorm your supporting points and the details. Remember that details are very important. Give clear detailed examples to illustrate the supporting points.



II. OUTLINE: From your brainstorming, choose the ideas that you want to use in your paragraph and organize them in the outline below. The outline for this assignment has been designed differently than the outlines before. Each supporting point will be one difference. After you state the difference, you will then give details about online classes and traditional classes that illustrate that difference. The first supporting point has been done for you. Complete the rest of the outline.

OUTLINE

Topic Sentence: _____

Difference #1: *One difference between online and traditional classes is freedom.*

Online Classes
a. study any time
b. study anywhere
c. wear whatever you want

Traditional Classes
a. must attend classes at set time
b. must be on time
c. must dress properly

Difference #2: _____

Online Classes
a. _____
b. _____
c. _____

Traditional Classes
a. _____
b. _____
c. _____

Difference #3: _____

Online Classes
a. _____
b. _____
c. _____

Traditional Classes
a. _____
b. _____
c. _____

Conclusion: (You can write this when you do your rough draft.)

PRINT STUDENT NAME **STUDENT #**

Tutor Feedback:

_____In Step One, the student completed the pre-reading activity.

_____In Steps Two and Three, the student read the article and circled new words. The student then answered the comprehension questions correctly.

_____In Step Four, the student wrote down 3 new words and defined them.

_____In Step Five, the student filled in the Venn Diagram and did a thorough job of brainstorming the topic in Part 2. If you think the student didn't write down enough ideas, send him/her back to complete this part. Or you can help the student generate with some ideas.

_____In Step Five, student filled out the outline form completely. Look over the outline with the student and make sure the supporting points focus on the topic and all the details connect logically to their corresponding supporting points.

Additional Comments:

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PRINT INSTRUCTOR/TUTOR NAME **DATE**

INSTRUCTOR/TUTOR SIGNATURE