Write a Compare/Contrast essay on the topic of your choice. Here are two suggestions to help get you started:

a. Review “Beyond Control,” which compares and contrasts two tormented characters. Think of two similar characters from novels, stories, plays, or films. List their similarities and differences, and determine a primary point of comparison between them. Then write an essay that compares and contrasts the characters.

b. Review the way in which Mark Twain makes his point in “Two Views of the River” by comparing and contrasting two perspectives of the Mississippi River. The two views are separated by time and experience. Think of two different perspectives you have on a specific topic, describe each, and compare and contrast them in an essay.

Technical requirements for final draft:

- 600-800 words
- Typed and stapled
- MLA format and style (remember, this controls spacing, margins, font type and size, and many other things besides citations)

Compare and Contrast Essay reminders:

- Has a thesis that is not simply: These two things have some things in common and some things that differ between them
- Make a point and then use the compare/contrast information to illustrate your point
- Don’t try to figure out your point or write any drafts before you do the compare/contrast (through venn diagram or other method)