

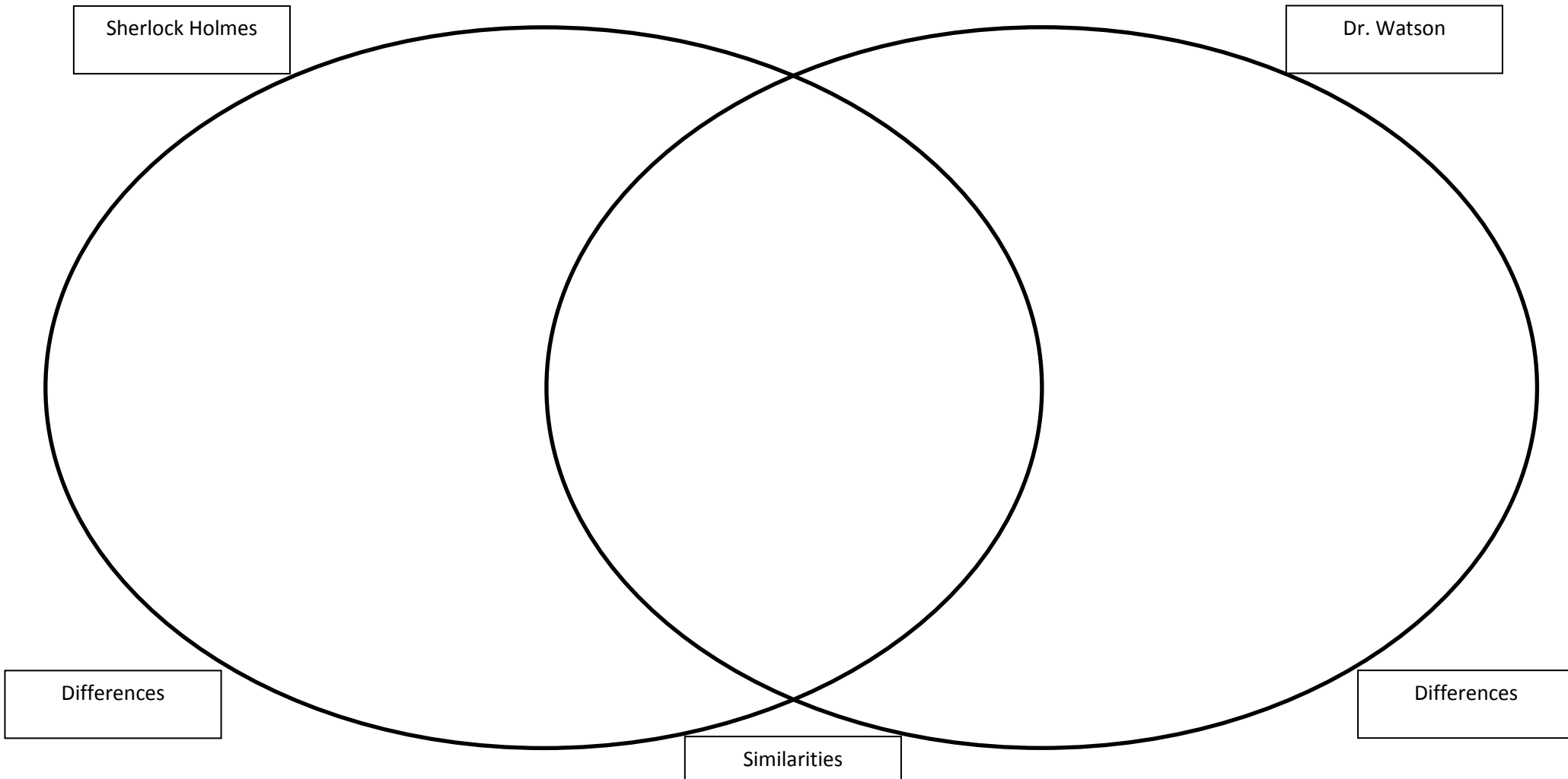
Grade 7 ELA
Compare & Contrast Essay
Sherlock Holmes

Name: _____

Assignment Prompt: For this open response essay, you will choose three character traits of both Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson to compare and contrast. Your open response should include a strong thesis statement that compares/contrasts character traits. You also must provide direct text evidence to support the traits provided (claims). Your open response essay's structure should use either **block** or **point-by-point method**.

Procedure: You will learn the methods of organization in class and will be given time to work on the graphic organizer and rough draft. **On Monday 11/24 you will be given class time to type the final draft of your open response.**

Step 1: Brainstorm – Finding Similarities and Differences: Using the Venn Diagram below, think of all the traits that Sherlock and Watson have presented throughout the beginning of “A Study in Scarlet.” Identify similarities and differences between the two characters. Circle the traits that your thesis will include.



Step 2: Writing a Thesis Statement – Choose the points from the Venn Diagram that you'd like to discuss in your open response.

Sample Thesis Statements:

*Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are both similar and different; both characters are lonely, but Sherlock's passion and skills in deducing clues differ from Dr. Watson's. **This author will be arguing that Sherlock and Watson have a shared characteristic (loneliness), but that they are different in their passion for deducing clues and skill in deducing clues.***

*Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson have three majorly differing character traits that lie in in their personalities, habits and areas of expertise. **This author will be arguing that Sherlock and Watson have three contrasting traits – their personalities, habits and areas of expertise are different.***

Your Thesis Statement: Write your thesis statement. **HIGHLIGHT your three claims.**

Step 3: Choose Your Method of Organization – There are two ways to organize a compare / contrast essay.

- **Block / Subject-by-Subject Organization:** Discusses all the claims in relation to the first subject, then moves onto the second subject. *This method requires two body paragraphs.*

EXAMPLE 1:

Subject 1: *Sherlock [body paragraph #1 will focus on Sherlock's traits]*

Claims {
#1. *Sherlock is lonely*
#2. *Sherlock's passion for deducing crime is unique*
#3. *Sherlock has a strong power of observation*

Subject 2: *Watson [body paragraph #2 will focus on Watson's traits]*

Claims {
#1. *Watson is also lonely (like Sherlock)*
#2. *Watson does not like being around crime (unlike Sherlock)*
#3. *Watson is unable to deduce clues from observation (unlike Sherlock)*

- **Point-by-Point Organization:** Discusses the claims one by one, explaining how they relate to each subject. *This method requires three body paragraphs.*

EXAMPLE:

Claim #1: *Both Sherlock and Watson are lonely (body paragraph #1)*

-Text evidence to show that both characters are lonely.

Claim #2: *Sherlock and Watson's passion for deducing crime is different (body paragraph #2)*

-Text evidence to show Sherlock's unique passion for deducing crime

-Text evidence to show Watson's distaste of being around crime

Claim #3: *Sherlock and Watson's power of observation is different (body paragraph #3)*

-Text evidence to show Sherlock's strong power of observation

-Text evidence to show Watson's inability to deduce/understand the clues

Practice Organization Methods: Using the sample thesis statement, complete the following outlines for each method of organization.

Sample Thesis: Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson have three majorly differing character traits that lie in in their personalities, habits and areas of expertise. This author will be arguing that Sherlock and Watson have three contrasting traits – their personalities, habits and areas of expertise are different.

Block / Subject-by-Subject Organization

Subject 1: _____ (body paragraph # _____)

Claim #1: _____

Claim #2: _____

Claim #3: _____

Subject 2: _____ (body paragraph # _____)

Claim #1: _____

Claim #2: _____

Claim #3: _____

Point-by-Point Organization

Claim #1: _____ (body paragraph # _____)

Evidence to show _____

Evidence to show _____

Claim #2: _____ (body paragraph # _____)

Evidence to show _____

Evidence to show _____

Claim #3: _____ (body paragraph # _____)

Evidence to show _____

Evidence to show _____

