Character Comparison Analysis Tips

**Task:** In a well-constructed, formal essay (4-5 Paragraphs), compare and contrast Mathilde from *The Necklace* and Della from *The Gift of the Magi*. Focus on the characterization by the author, personality, motivation, and traits of each woman, and make claims about them, supported by evidence from the texts. Do NOT write about insignificant comparisons (i.e. They are both girls…)!

**Things to Consider:**

* Thesis-Make sure you have a well-developed thesis in your introduction. The thesis should be clear, and this is where you would state your claim(s) about the characters.
* Topic Sentences-Make sure each body paragraph has a topic sentence (usually the first in the paragraph) and tells me what the paragraph will be about.
* Format-Follow the point-to-point or block format we discussed in the beginning of the year.
  + **Point-to Point:** Alternate Comparing Points in Each Paragraph.
  + **Block:** All Supporting Evidence of Character A in One Paragraph and All Supporting Evidence of Character B in the Other Paragraph.
* CEA: Utilize the CEA format, Claim-Evidence-Analysis. From this point forward, if you were not, when you are answering any type of essay, question, paper, prompt, etc. you should be stating your claim, providing evidence to support that claim (generally from the specific text) and including your analysis of the evidence and how it supports your original claim.
* Non-Conversational: This should be a formally written paper, and I do not want to see “I…” or “I am going to compare…” or “In my opinion…”
* Transitions: Make sure your paper is organized and flows. It will be strengthened by use of transition words. I have included a list of transitions to use on the back of this sheet.
* Conclusion: Restate your thesis and any applicable analyses and tie up any “loose” ends from your essay.

Compare & Contrast Essay Transition Words

-Transitional Words and Phrases:

• helps papers read more smoothly

• provide logical organization and understandability

• improve the connections and transitions between thoughts

-Transitions indicate relations, whether within a sentence, paragraph, or paper. This list illustrates "relationships" between ideas, followed by words and phrases that can connect them.

**Comparison/Similarities Transitions:**

also, again, as well as, besides, coupled with, furthermore, in addition, likewise, moreover, similarly, comparatively, correspondingly, identically, similar, moreover, together with, by the same token

**Contrast/Difference Transitions:**

contrast, conversely, instead, on one hand, on the other hand, on the contrary, rather, yet, but, however, nevertheless, in contrast

**Summarizing Transitions:**

after all, all in all, all things considered, briefly, by and large, in any case, in any event, in brief, in conclusion, on the whole, in short, in summary, in the final analysis, in the long run, on balance, to sum up, to summarize, finally, in essence, in other words, in short

**Example Transitions:**

for example, for instance, for one thing, as an illustration, illustrated with, as an example, in this case, chiefly, especially, for instance, in particular, markedly, namely, particularly, including, specifically, such as