



COMPARE AND CONTRAST ESSAY

Divergent and Hunger Games: FIGHT TO THE DEATH!



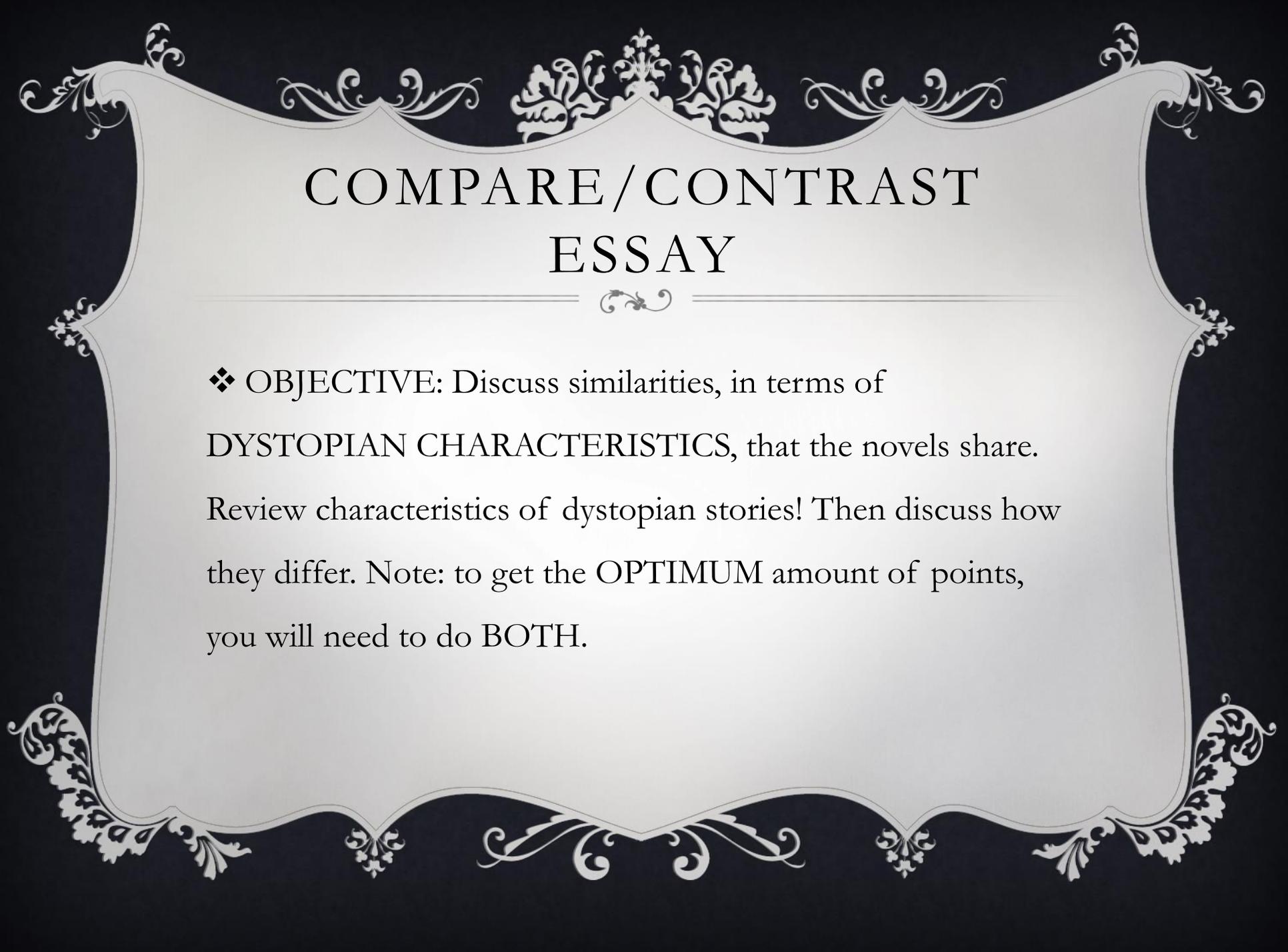
COMPARE/CONTRAST ESSAY

- ❖ This is a MODE of writing and its *aim* is to INFORM.
- ❖ What are other modes and aims of writing?



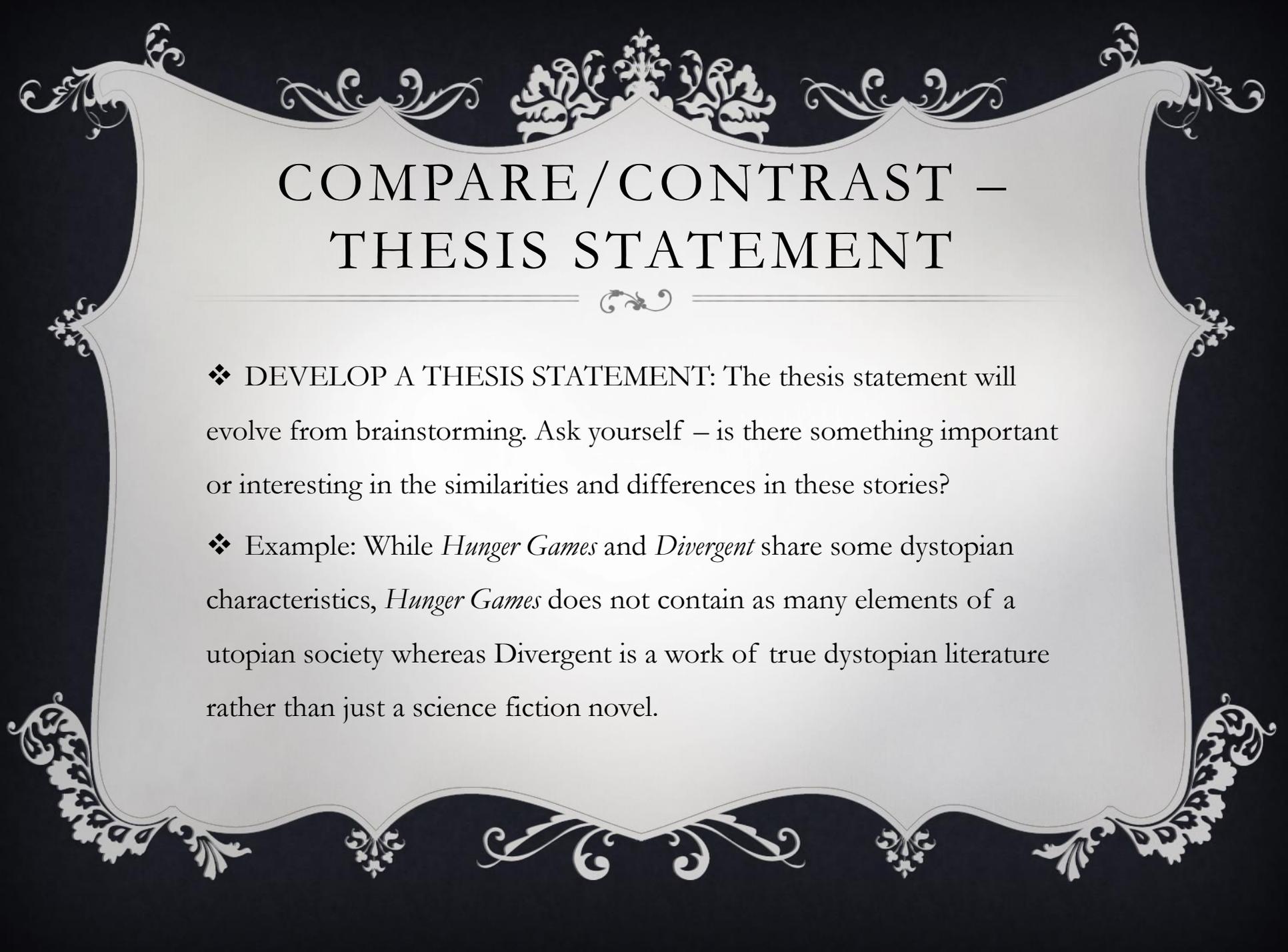
COMPARE/CONTRAST ESSAY

❖ Writing a compare and contrast essay involves finding similarities and differences in 2 subjects. Your subjects are HUNGER GAMES and DIVERGENT (WHICHEVER IS YOUR SELF-SELECTED DYSTOPIAN NOVEL).



COMPARE / CONTRAST ESSAY

❖ **OBJECTIVE:** Discuss similarities, in terms of **DYSTOPIAN CHARACTERISTICS**, that the novels share. Review characteristics of dystopian stories! Then discuss how they differ. Note: to get the **OPTIMUM** amount of points, you will need to do **BOTH**.



COMPARE / CONTRAST – THESIS STATEMENT

- ❖ DEVELOP A THESIS STATEMENT: The thesis statement will evolve from brainstorming. Ask yourself – is there something important or interesting in the similarities and differences in these stories?
- ❖ Example: While *Hunger Games* and *Divergent* share some dystopian characteristics, *Hunger Games* does not contain as many elements of a utopian society whereas *Divergent* is a work of true dystopian literature rather than just a science fiction novel.

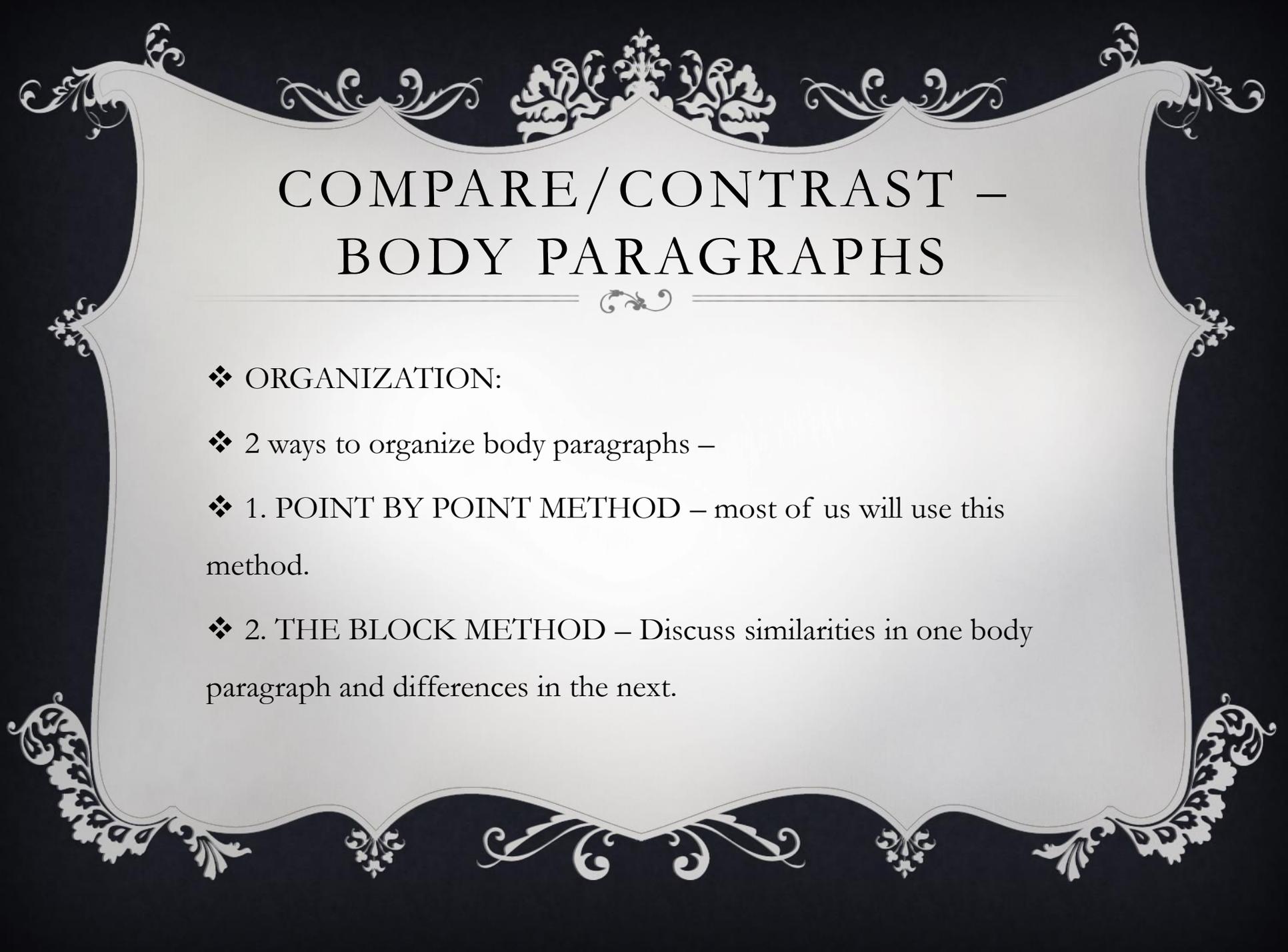


COMPARE/CONTRAST – INTRODUCTION

❖ ORGANIZATION:

❖ *Introduction* – Begin with a **hook**. What are some hook strategies?

Introduce subjects clearly. It might be helpful to provide **very brief** summaries of each novel. State why it is important to compare and contrast these two texts. Transition into thesis statement at the end.



COMPARE/CONTRAST – BODY PARAGRAPHS

❖ ORGANIZATION:

❖ 2 ways to organize body paragraphs –

❖ 1. POINT BY POINT METHOD – most of us will use this method.

❖ 2. THE BLOCK METHOD – Discuss similarities in one body paragraph and differences in the next.

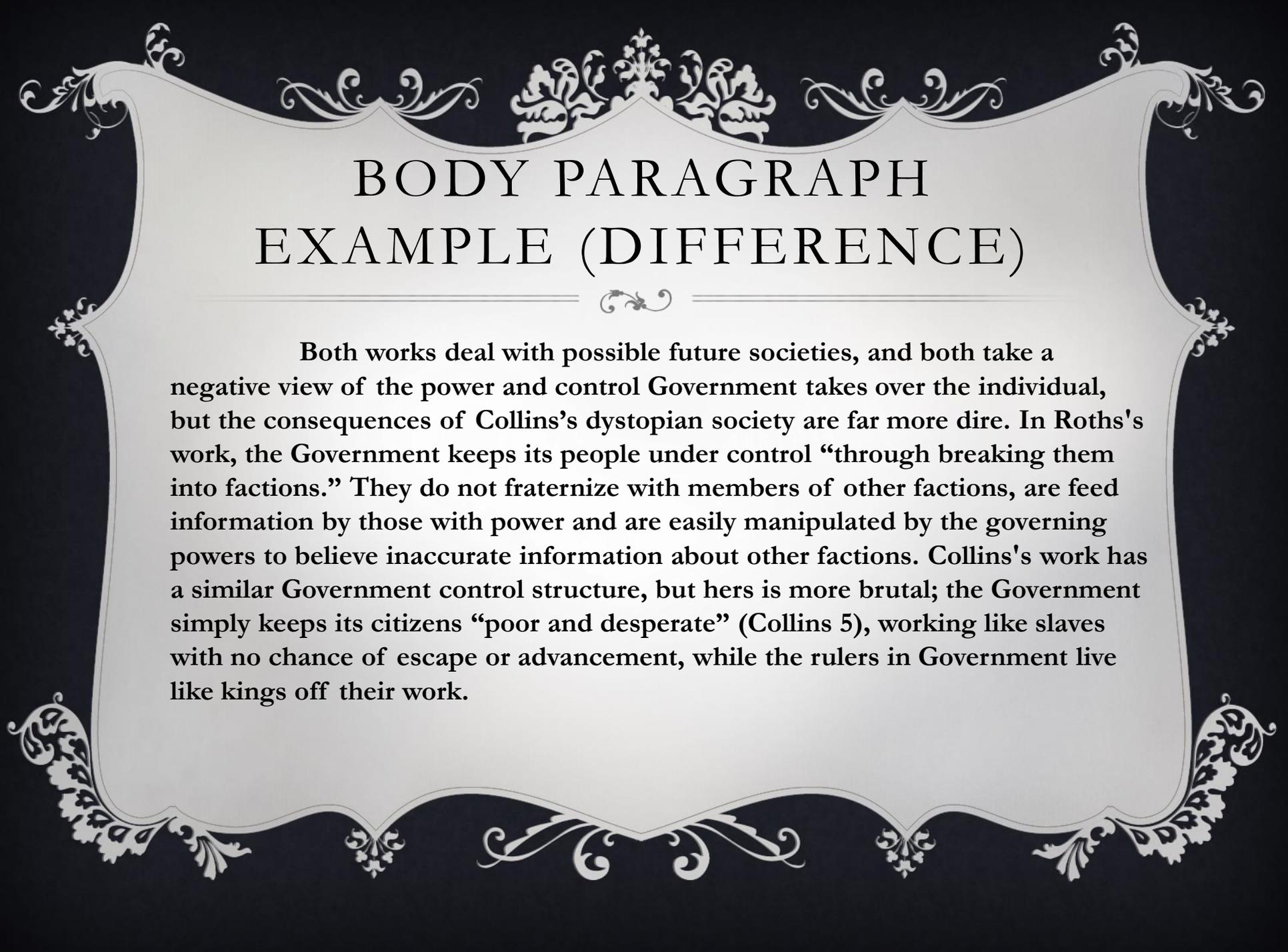
POINT BY POINT METHOD

- ❖ BODY PARAGRAPHS:
- ❖ *Point by Point Method* – Discuss similarities and differences of texts point by point, or topic by topic.
- ❖ Paragraphs for similarities.
- ❖ Paragraphs for differences.
- ❖ NO more than 7 paragraphs total!
- ❖ 6-8 quotes total! (2 per body paragraph)



BODY PARAGRAPH EXAMPLE (SIMILARITY)

In both *Divergent* and *The Hunger Games*, the act of non-conforming is harshly criticized. In Roth's novel, Tris laments that "It will be difficult to break the habits of thinking Abnegation instilled in me, like tugging a single thread from a complex work of embroidery. But I will find new habits, new thoughts, new rules. I will become something else." (Roth 87). The author compares those who would "conform" or follow, as opposed to redefining who you are in a faction. Collins echoes this viewpoint when she insists, "All I can think is how unjust the whole thing is, the Hunger Games. Why am I hopping around like some trained dog trying to please people I hate?" (Collins 14). She implies conformity is for the weak and, the destruction of one's beliefs and own thoughts will lead to a greater demise than if she stayed in the Hunger Games.



BODY PARAGRAPH EXAMPLE (DIFFERENCE)

Both works deal with possible future societies, and both take a negative view of the power and control Government takes over the individual, but the consequences of Collins's dystopian society are far more dire. In Roth's work, the Government keeps its people under control "through breaking them into factions." They do not fraternize with members of other factions, are fed information by those with power and are easily manipulated by the governing powers to believe inaccurate information about other factions. Collins's work has a similar Government control structure, but hers is more brutal; the Government simply keeps its citizens "poor and desperate" (Collins 5), working like slaves with no chance of escape or advancement, while the rulers in Government live like kings off their work.



COMPARE/CONTRAST – CONCLUSION

❖ The conclusion should rephrase your thesis statement, summarize your main points and leave the reader with something interesting or meaningful to think about:

❖ Ex. *Divergent* and *The Hunger Games* were written only years apart, yet they share common themes that are relevant today's society and will continue to be relevant for decades to come.



COMPARE / CONTRAST ESSAY

Your compare and contrast essay must include:

- 6-7 paragraphs (introduction, 2-3 body paragraphs highlighting similarities and 2-3 body paragraphs highlighting differences, conclusion)
- Strong topic sentences
- A thesis statement
- 1-2 quotes per body paragraph as evidence of similarities/differences
- MLA style format
- Academic 3rd person voice

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TRANSITIONS

❖ In a compare/contrast essay, certain types of words will help you explain your point-of-view more completely. Here's a list to get you started:

❖ **like, similar to, also, unlike, similarly, in the same way, likewise, again, compared to, in contrast, in like manner, contrasted with, on the contrary, however, although, yet, even though, still, but, nevertheless, conversely, at the same time, regardless, despite, while, on the other hand**



TRANSITIONS: AN EXAMPLE FOR YOU!



As stated previously, The Hunger Games is a dystopian novel that combines life and romance to set the scene for an exciting story. In the same way, Divergent also uses life and romance to set a scene, but the author uses a much different setting. Still, there are drastic differences. On the one hand, in The Hunger Games, the Games themselves are forced upon the characters. In Divergent, though, the main character chooses to be in a violent situation.



TRANSITIONS

- ❖ Part of your grade will be how well you use transitions. This means that you need to become familiar with transitions, and you need to know how to use them.
- ❖ Brainstorm: What could you do to check if your transitions are used correctly?
- ❖ Brainstorm: What could you do if you don't understand how to use transitions?