

Name: _____

Date: _____

6B- _____

ELA: Sample Compare-Contrast Outlines and Essays: Demosthenes and Daedalus

Directions: Use the following sample outlines and essays to help you write your own compare-contrast essays, either in point-by-point or block form.

Point-by-Point or Similarities & Differences OUTLINE:

Thesis: Demosthenes and Icarus and Daedalus are certainly alike in one sense, but they are dramatically different in another.

[POINT #1 / SIMILARITIES: PURSUIT of GOAL]

TS 1: Similarly, Demosthenes and Daedalus show determination in pursuit of their goals.

S #1: Demosthenes

- stones
- seashore
- sword
- underground room
- 4 months of practice (optional)
- haircut (optional)

S #2: Icarus and Daedalus

- D collects feathers
- D stitches feathers
- D shapes them with wax
- D fits wings to bodies
- D experiments with flight
- D teaches I flight

[POINT #2 / DIFFERENCES: RESULTS]

TS 2: While both characters show determination, their efforts produce significantly different results.

S #1: DEMOSTHENES

- wins lawsuit
- recovers property
- greatest orator of Athens
- 1 of 10 official orators of Athens

S #2: ICARUS AND DAEDALUS

- Icarus ignores advice and flies too close to sun
- wings melt; he dies
- "In heavy grief..."

(over)

Point-by-Point or Similarities & Differences ESSAY:

Ask a random stranger about determination, and she's likely to sing its virtues. Drop your head in despair, and you're just as likely to hear a cheery, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!" But why do we almost always assume determination is so virtuous, so entirely good and pure? John Haaren's biography "Demosthenes" and Josephine Preston Peabody's myth "Icarus and Daedalus" depict ancient Greek characters, both real and imagined, who answer this question, when "at first they don't succeed." While these characters are somewhat alike, they are also significantly different from each other.

Similarly, both Demosthenes and Daedalus use determination to pursue their goals. Demosthenes loses his fortune to his legal guardians, who steal it from him. By chance, he witnesses a dazzling legal argument, and it inspires him to set out to become a lawyer and public speaker, his new goal. When Demosthenes encounters obstacles, a gifted actor tells him, "You can learn to speak just as well as I do... if you are willing to work patiently. Do not be discouraged, but conquer your difficulties." In response, Demosthenes shows his determination: "I will." And he does. For example, Demosthenes speaks with stones in his mouth to correct his stammer; he practices at the seashore amid the crashing waves to prepare for the commotion of a busy public forum; and he suspends a sword over his shoulder to correct his bad habit of speaking with poor posture. Finally, Demosthenes builds an underground room where he practices privately for months without distraction, copying the speeches of Thucydides to learn eloquence. Basically, Demosthenes doesn't allow either the theft of his fortune or his shortcoming as a speaker to hamper his effort to speak powerfully and to practice law. Likewise, the noted architect Daedalus and his son, Icarus, find themselves with a challenging goal to accomplish: They want to escape from a prison cell on the island of Crete. Like Demosthenes, Daedalus attempts to solve his problem with determination. He resolves to stitch together, painstakingly, seagulls' feathers and shape them into wings with wax. With remarkable grit, Daedalus uses trial and error to teach himself, and then his son, to fly so they can escape the island. In the end, Daedalus, in the same fashion as Demosthenes, relies on persistence to try to improve his fate, refusing to allow his captivity to weaken his spirit or his creativity. Ironically, instead of feeling limited by his confinement, Daedalus uses it to set free his architect's imagination and give flight to his determination.

While both characters show determination, they experience dramatically different results. Never giving up, Demosthenes takes his guardians to court and defeats them, recovering much of his lost fortune in the process. Still not satisfied, he refines his craft, and, according to Haaren, "In this way the awkward boy who had been laughed out of the assembly became in time the greatest orator of Athens.

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Not only was Demosthenes a graceful orator, but he was wise and patriotic. He soon acquired great influence in Athens and became one of the ten official orators.” Essentially, Demosthenes’ determination earns him not only justice, but also respect. On the contrary, though, Daedalus’ determination leads to Icarus’ death. Awed by the freedom of flight, Icarus ignores his father’s warning and flies too close to the heavens. Tragically, the warmth of the sun melts the wax in Icarus’ wings, and he plunges to his death in the waters surrounding the island. Yes, Daedalus escapes, but he does so alone, without his son, which is a hollow victory. In fact, describing Daedalus’ response to his son’s death, Peabody notes that “[Daedalus], in heavy grief, went to the temple of Apollo in Sicily, and there hung up his wings as an offering. Never again did he attempt to fly.” In effect, Icarus’ reckless disregard for rules spoils the virtue of his father’s determination, so Daedalus humbly offers his wings — the symbol of his creativity and determination to be free — to the god of the sun, Apollo, suggesting that Daedalus believes his flight to have been an act of hubris. In essence, Daedalus knows that his determination and his son’s greed have gone beyond mortal boundaries and thus offended the gods. In contrast to the heroic victory of Demosthenes, the failure of Daedalus and Icarus makes them tragic figures, not heroes.

Overall, Demosthenes, just like Icarus and Daedalus, is determined, but Demosthenes succeeds, while Icarus and Daedalus fail. Ultimately, when the ancient Greeks demonstrate determination, they reveal that hard work and a strong will can in fact bring great triumph. However — if not paired with wisdom and humility — determination isn’t necessarily a virtue or a sign of goodness and purity; it’s just plain, old pride and greed... or, as the Greeks might call it, hubris.



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Subject-by-Subject or Block Form OUTLINE:

Thesis: Demosthenes and Icarus and Daedalus are certainly alike in one sense, but they are dramatically different in another.

[SUBJECT #1: DEMOSTHENES]

TS 1: Demosthenes relies on determination to pursue his goals, and it ultimately results in his triumph.

P #1: PURSUIT OF GOAL

- stones
- seashore
- sword
- underground room
- 4 months of practice (optional)
- haircut (optional)

P #2: RESULTS

- wins lawsuit
- recovers property
- greatest orator of Athens
- 1 of 10 official orators of Athens

[SUBJECT #2: ICARUS AND DAEDALUS]

TS 2: Like Demosthenes, Daedalus uses determination to pursue his goals; however, in contrast to Demosthenes, Daedalus' pursuit results in tragedy, not in triumph.

P #1: PURSUIT OF GOAL **[SIMILARITY]**

- D collects feathers
- D stitches feathers
- D shapes them with wax
- D fits wings to bodies
- D experiments with flight
- D teaches I flight

P #2: RESULTS **[DIFFERENCE]**

- Icarus ignores advice and flies too close to sun
- wings melt; he dies
- "In heavy grief..."

(next)

Subject-by-Subject or Block Form ESSAY:

Ask a random stranger about determination, and she's likely to sing its virtues. Drop your head in despair, and you're just as likely to hear a cheery, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!" But why do we almost always assume determination is so virtuous, so entirely good and pure? John Haaren's biography "Demosthenes" and Josephine Preston Peabody's myth "Daedalus and Icarus" depict ancient Greek characters, both real and imagined, who answer this question when "at first they don't succeed." While these characters are somewhat alike, they are also significantly different from each other.

Demosthenes relies on determination to pursue his goals, and it ultimately results in his triumph. Demosthenes loses his fortune to his legal guardians, who steal it from him. By chance, he witnesses a dazzling legal argument, and it inspires him to set out to become a lawyer and public speaker, his new goal. When Demosthenes encounters obstacles, a gifted actor tells him, "You can learn to speak just as well as I do... if you are willing to work patiently. Do not be discouraged, but conquer your difficulties." In response, Demosthenes shows his determination: "I will." And For example, Demosthenes speaks with stones in his mouth to correct his stammer; he practices at the seashore amid the crashing waves to prepare for the commotion of a busy public forum; and he suspends a sword over his shoulder to correct his bad habit of speaking with poor posture. Finally, Demosthenes builds an underground room where he practices privately for months without distraction, copying the speeches of Thucydides to learn eloquence. Basically, Demosthenes doesn't allow either the theft of his fortune or his shortcoming as a speaker to hamper his effort to speak powerfully and to practice law. As a result of his hard work, Demosthenes enjoys successful results. For example, he takes his guardians to court and defeats them, recovering much of his lost fortune in the process. Still not satisfied, he refines his craft, and, according to Haaren, "In this way the awkward boy who had been laughed out of the assembly became in time the greatest orator of Athens. Not only was Demosthenes a graceful orator, but he was wise and patriotic. He soon acquired great influence in Athens and became one of the ten official orators." Essentially, Demosthenes' determination earns him not only justice, but also respect.

Like Demosthenes, Daedalus uses determination to pursue his goals; however, in contrast to Demosthenes, Daedalus' pursuit results in tragedy, not in triumph. Similar to Demosthenes, the noted architect Daedalus and his son, Icarus, find themselves with a challenging goal to accomplish: They want to escape from a prison cell on the island of Crete. Like Demosthenes, Daedalus attempts to solve his problem with determination. He resolves to stitch together, painstakingly, seagulls' feathers and shape them into wings with wax. With remarkable grit, Daedalus uses trial and error to teach himself, and then

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his son, to fly so they can escape the island. In the end, Daedalus, in the same fashion as Demosthenes, relies on persistence to try to improve his fate, refusing to allow his captivity to weaken his spirit or his creativity. Ironically, instead of feeling limited by his conflict, Daedalus uses it to set free his architect's imagination and give flight to his determination. Contrary to Demosthenes, though, Daedalus' determination leads to Icarus' death. Awed by the freedom of flight, Icarus ignores his father's warning and flies too close to the heavens. Tragically, the warmth of the sun melts the wax in Icarus' wings, and he plunges to his death in the waters surrounding the island. Yes, Daedalus escapes, but he does so alone, without his son, which is a hollow victory. In fact, describing Daedalus' response to his son's death, Peabody notes that "[Daedalus], in heavy grief, went to the temple of Apollo in Sicily, and there hung up his wings as an offering. Never again did he attempt to fly." In effect, Icarus' reckless disregard for rules spoils the virtue of his father's determination, so Daedalus humbly offers his wings — the symbol of his creativity and determination to be free — to the god of the sun, Apollo, suggesting that Daedalus believes his flight to have been an act of hubris. In essence, Daedalus knows that his determination and his son's greed have gone beyond mortal boundaries and thus offended the gods. In contrast to the victory of Demosthenes, which makes him a hero, the failure of Daedalus and Icarus makes them tragic figures, not heroes.

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"You think I'm crazy; I think you're crazy...
finally some common ground!"