

Exploring Creation Stories: A Comparative Study

Learning objective: To analyse and compare how different cultures and religions explain the origins of the world through narrative.

Use this writing frame to structure your own comparative essay. Begin by summarising a specific creation story you have studied, then use the prompts below to analyse its deeper meaning and compare it to another perspective.

Throughout human history, diverse cultures have crafted intricate creation stories to make sense of the universe's mysterious origins.

Word bank: furthermore · conversely · symbolises · in contrast · theologically · metaphorically · divine · perspective · significance · nevertheless

1. Introduction: Identify the two creation stories you are comparing and state the main purpose of these narratives. Start with: 'In this essay, I will explore the creation stories of...', (2 marks)

2. Summary: Briefly outline the key events of the first story. Start with: 'The first narrative begins with...', (3 marks)

3. Analysis: Explain what the elements of the first story symbolise. Start with: 'The use of [element] in this story represents...', (4 marks)

4. Comparison: Compare the two stories. How are they similar or different regarding the role of a creator? Start with: 'A notable similarity between these two accounts is...', (4 marks)

5. Justification: Explain why societies might feel the need to create stories about the beginning of the world. Start with: 'I believe that creation stories are essential because...', (3 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise your findings and offer a final thought on the value of these stories today. Start with: 'In conclusion, while these stories differ in detail, they both serve to...', (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are asked to create a brand new creation story for a modern, futuristic society. Write a paragraph explaining which natural phenomena (such as gravity, starlight, or the tides) you would include as central characters or forces, and justify why these elements are significant to your world-building.