

## Essay 1 Critical Compare-and-Contrast

**Assignment:** Ted Chiang has taken us to a world where we can suppress our perception of physical beauty and thus judge people based on qualities other than appearance. He has taken us to a world where a medical procedure can make us the smartest person in existence. He has taken us to a world where we can learn a new form of writing that then gives us the ability to ‘remember’ the future and live outside of time itself. For this essay, you have to choose amongst one of these three special abilities. Which special ability would you prefer to have: Tamera Lyon’s calli, Leon’s enhanced intelligence, or Louise’s ability to know her future? Discuss the reasons for your choice by referring to what happens to the characters in Chiang’s three stories.

### **Content:**

- Your essay must begin with a well-developed introduction that contains a clear thesis.
- You must include at least three quotes in your essay.
- You must write your quotes using signal phrases and helping verbs, as we practiced in class. You may also want to include brief plot summaries with your quotes to give them context. Thus, your quotes should begin with phrases such as “As Louise tells Colonel Webber when she first meets him ...” and “Louise informs the readers about the mistranslation of the word ‘kangaroo’ ....”
- You must include parenthetical citations after each of your quotes. Put the page number each quote is from in parentheses after each quote, like this (204). Remember to mention Chiang’s name in your first parenthetical citation if you do not mention his name in your text.
- Remember to put the titles of short stories in quotes: “Understand.” Novel and film titles are always italicized; short story and essay titles are always put in quote marks.

### **Format:**

- Include the following in the upper right hand side of the first page: your name; a title for your essay; the number of words in your assignment; the name, number and time of your class; and your professor’s name.
- You must write a minimum of **five** fully-developed paragraphs and **600** total words. A fully-developed paragraph is a minimum of five sentences long.
- Your assignment must be written in Standard American English, making use of proper grammar, diction, and spelling. Assignments that exhibit a trend (3 instances) of a single serious grammar, mechanical, or style error cannot receive a grade higher than a 70. Serious errors consist of errors such as fragments, comma splices, run-ons, and poor sentence structure, as well as errors in verb tense, verb forms, subject-verb agreement, pronoun agreement, pronoun case, diction, and parallelism. Essays that exhibit more than one trend of a serious error cannot receive a grade higher than a 60.
- Number each page if you are using more than one page. Center page numbers at the bottom of each page.
- Type your assignment with double spacing and 1” margins; use 12 pt. Times font and left justify your body paragraphs.
- You do not need to include a works cited page with this particular assignment.

- **Upload an MS Word file containing a properly formatted draft of your essay to the Essay 1 assignment folder in D2L.**