**Outline Sample for Compare/Contrast Gothic Essay**

**Topic Sentence #1**: In\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Poe’s use of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all combine to create one of his most unique and suspenseful short stories. (prove the suspense throughout – how – to what effect – through the Gothic elements you have chosen- this is a model – you can chose what you want – does NOT have to be suspense!)

**Main Idea 1**: Poe’s masterful establishment of the suspenseful \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is made clear through the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the tale.

A. The dungeon itself is ….

B. Word and phrases such as ….. add to …..

C. Location and diction heighten the suspense because …..

**Main Idea 2**: Furthermore, Poe plays on the readers’ fears of the soul and mind, using his favored Gothic element of arabesque terror at moments that also add suspense.

A.

B.

C.

**Main Idea 3**: Finally, perhaps worse than mental torture, it is Poe’s vivid and disturbed imagination that creates the grotesque scenes of terror in the dungeon.

A. The moment of most suspense . . .

B.

C.

Overall this unforgettable short story …… (concluding sentence)

**Topic Sentence #2** SIMILARLY, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ likewise applies the Gothic writing techniques of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_; however, in this case suspense is less important and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ takes the center stage.

Main Idea 1: In this narrative, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is established as \_\_\_\_\_\_, causing the reader to feel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.............

A. IN CONTRAST TO or SIMILAR TO (depending on your choices) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ there is not much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, yet diction and setting are still integral to setting the mood.

B. evidence – pity, irony, etc. – totally depends on what you are arguing here

C.

Main Idea 2: JUST AS (similarity) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_has a character suffering pain of the soul and spirit, so does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, ultimately propelling him toward revenge.

A. Compare characters – but now it’s not about suspense in this essay – it was a new piece so bring that in – yours will be different! This is just a model!

B. to what end

C. why/analysis

Main Idea 3: The use of the grotesque is ALSO (focus on similarities) found in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_as Poe cannot resist physical suffering as a form of revenge.

A.

B.

C. sprinkle in similarities/differences to other story

Clearly, ………….and has similarities to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the mood certainly becomes darker as the story progresses ending in a brutal revenge. (concluding sentence)