

## **APSU Writing Center**

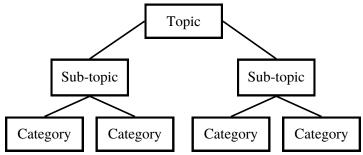
## Division and Classification Essay

#### **Division and Classification Essay**

• A Division and Classification Essay helps readers understand a complex topic by breaking it into smaller parts (**division**) and grouping those parts based on shared characteristics (**classification**).

• This essay structure is useful for organizing large amounts of information in a clear and logical

way.



### Tips for Writing:

- Start with a topic you know well, one that can be easily divided into categories.
- Determine your purpose for dividing or classifying the topic and consider what your audience already knows so you can provide the right level of explanation.
- Your thesis statement should clearly explain what you are dividing or classifying, why it matters, and preview the categories you'll cover.
- Example Topic: Apples
  - Classification 1: Color Green, Red, Yellow
  - Classification 2: Variety Granny Smith, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Jonathan, Winesap, York
  - Classification 3: Size 2-inch, 4-inch, 6-inch
  - o Classification 4: Region Northeast, Southeast, West Coast
  - Classification 5: Flavor Sweet, Sour, Tart

### **Essay Format**

#### • Introduction

- Introduce the topic and explain the categories you are using.
- In your thesis statement you should state what you are classifying, why it matters, and preview the categories you will cover.
- **Body Paragraphs** (one for each category)
  - Introduce the category with a topic sentence.
  - Describe the characteristics of each category and provide examples.

#### • Conclusion

- Restate your thesis in a new way and summarize the key points made in each body paragraph.
- Provide a key takeaway for the reader, explaining the significance of your classification.

#### **Example Paragraph**

At APSU, students come from diverse backgrounds, which can be classified into several key
categories based on their academic status and lifestyle. Traditional students are typically those who
attend college immediately after high school, pursuing a four-year degree in a more structured, fulltime setting. In contrast, non-traditional students are...



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## References

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