

Division and Classification Essay

APSU Writing Center Handout

It analyzes a subject by either breaking it into smaller parts (division) or grouping it into categories based on shared characteristics (classification). This structure helps organize complex information in a clear, logical, and meaningful way.

Key Principles

Choose a topic that can be logically divided into categories.

Establish a clear basis for classification (color, function, behavior, type, etc.).

Make sure categories are consistent and do not overlap.

Ensure each category is equally developed and relevant to your purpose.

Consider your audience and explain categories clearly.

Thesis Statement

Your thesis should:

- Identify what you are dividing or classifying.
- Explain why the classification matters.
- Preview the categories you will discuss.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Overlapping categories.

Categories that are too broad or too narrow.

Uneven development of body paragraphs.

Listing information without analysis.

Introduction

Introducing the topic.

Explain the basis for classification.

Present your thesis.

Body Paragraphs

Begin with a clear topic sentence naming the category.

Define the category and explain its characteristics.

Provide specific examples.

Show how the category fits your overall purpose.

Conclusion

Restate your thesis in new wording.

Summarize the categories.

Explain why this classification is useful or significant.

Example of Classification

Apples can be classified by:

Color: Green, red, yellow

Variety: Granny Smith, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious

Size: Small, medium, large

References

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