Classification Essay

A classification essay is written by organizing or dividing material into specific categories. When writing a classification essay, it is necessary to choose a topic that can be dissected into smaller or more defined groups that all pertain to the topic's classification.

For example, say Mike's parents are making him clean out the garage. He is overwhelmed by the pile of items consuming the garage, so he decides to sort them into smaller, less intimidating, groups. Instead of dividing the items into random piles, he chooses to organize them into categories like trash, tools, and items to sell. Mike's process of cleaning the garage is very similar to the process of writing a classification essay.

Classification essay process:

1) **Introduction**: Describe the topic of the essay by using broad opening statements. As the introduction progresses, get more specific about the topic and the importance of the text. At the end of the introduction, a thesis should be included. The thesis should include the topic, the classification of the topic, and the categories into which the topic will be divided into.

      Ex: *Items* found *in a cluttered garage* often include *trash*, *tools*, and *items to sell.*
        (Topic)   *(Classification)*   *(Categories)*

2) **Body Paragraphs:** Each category listed in the thesis statement should have its own body paragraph. In other words, each body paragraph should focus on **only one** category. Classification essays can be as long or short as necessary, depending on the number of categories listed in the thesis. Support each category with several examples that provide evidence and further prove the validity of the points. Typically, each category should be supported with the same number of examples. In this section of the paper, the goal is to explain each category. For example, what makes a horror film, or what makes a comedy film. It is important to explain how each example fits into its category. This helps the reader differentiate between the different points.

3) **Conclusion**: Conclude classification essays by re-emphasizing the main points. It is important to restate and rewrite the thesis of the essay at the beginning of the conclusion. Be careful to avoid rewriting it word for word. This will refresh the reader's memory and allow him or her to form complete ideas about the information given. Unlike an introduction, it is best for the conclusion paragraph to start specific and lead into broader topics. Do **not** mention any information that was not previously discussed in the essay.