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, more defined groups, all pertaining 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 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. One can do this by including a thesis statement at the end of the introduction. The thesis should include the topic, the classification of the topic, and the categories in 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 exceed the typical five paragraphs, 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.

3) **Conclusion**: Conclude classification essays by re-emphasizing the main points. It is important to restate the thesis of the essay at the beginning of the conclusion. 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.