

4. Classification

NOTE: The following is general information about the rhetorical mode. It is not meant to take the place of any specific instructions given by your instructor for this assignment. If your instructor wants you to write your paper in a different manner, then by all means do it the way your instructor requires you to do it.

Clues for Classification

Here are some clues and tips for writing your classification paper:

When you classify something, you place it into a certain TYPE, KIND, VARIETY, or CLASS.

1. Think of something within your experience that has many members within it.
(For example, cars, fruits, vegetables, movies, clothes, stores, etc.)
2. Now begin to look for similar traits among these items.
3. Now group certain items together based on these similar traits which they share.
4. Create at least three (3) such groupings.
5. Label or “name” the groups.
(in some cases, “names” might already exist for the various groups. For example, the four basic food groups are already called “dairy products,” “meats,” “fruits/vegetables,” and “breads.” In other cases, you will have to make up your own names for the groups you create.)
6. After you have created the groups, go back and tell all the detailed information you can about the items in each group.
7. Devote one whole paragraph to explaining everything you can that is pertinent about the items in that group.
8. The overall purpose and point of this assignment is to inform your reader of the fact that you feel there are three types of this or four types of that. Your paper is “educating” the reader by classifying items and then explaining details about them. You are, in effect, “teaching” the reader of your paper about your topic.
9. In your introductory paragraph, include something like the following sentence at the end of the paragraph.

“There are X types of Y: A, B, and C.”

The purpose of this sentence is to tell your reader exactly WHAT you are classifying and HOW MANY TYPES you have come up with and what their NAMES are. For example: An artist can use four types of materials to paint a picture: oils, water colors, chalk, and pencils. Here is just a brief list of possible terms which lend themselves to classification:

Explore the various different TYPES of :

- Music
- Vacation Spots
- Comics
- Mail
- Friends
- Jokes
- Movies
- Neighbors
- Teachers
- TV Shows
- Bosses
- Customers
- Restaurants
- Employees
- Doctors