Classification and Analysis

Also known as… Classify and Divide
What do you mean....classify and analyze?

• People naturally put things into categories: books, movies, jobs, foods, etc
• High school students classify each other to the extreme with their cliques: jocks, punks, nerds, preps, etc
• Scientists classify species: mammals, birds, insects, amphibians, reptiles and so on
• So we already know how to classify people, places and things- now we just have to analyze why it might be important or useful
How is classification and analysis useful?

• In science, it’s useful to understand the different types of species in order to understand how they coexist within an ecosystem.

• In math, if you understand different types of formulas, then you can project or predict specific outcomes for economic systems.

• In history, you can gain an understanding for the patterns in society by classifying and analyzing different periods and events throughout history.

• When studying a foreign language, you can learn how to use other languages effectively if you can analyze the uses for their parts of speech.
Any pre-write ideas?

- There are several different forms of pre-writes in the pre-write section of this website but if you want to get really creative then this is the type of assignment that breeds creativity.
- Art pre-writes can be used for any topic.
- Art pre-writes incorporate your topic with basic paragraph organization.
Example Art Pre-write

**Thesis:** It is important to analyze the different types of students that I teach in order to create instructional strategies that will benefit their personal needs.

- **Shy**
  - Individual work
  - Writing journal
  - Email questions

- **Procrastinator**
  - Study skills
  - Homework calendar
  - Individual help

- **Over-achiever**
  - Goal setting
  - Individual challenges
  - Oral presentations
Art Pre-writes Unveiled

• In the art pre-write example, the topic was types of students, so the scene was of a classroom. The thesis was written on the chalkboard and each stick figure student represented a different paragraph that analyzed a different type of student. Ideas for the paragraph were written inside the stick figures bodies.

• Other ideas include: notes for different types of music, animals for different types of species, bubble numbers for different types of math equations—basically just get creative and you can visually understand how to organize your assignment.
What if my topic is too difficult to draw?

- Even if you lack artistic skills or if your topic lacks a simple way to draw it, you can always draw a garden of flowers.
- The thesis can be written in the grass because it is after all, the “root” of the essay and then each flower can represent a different paragraph.
- Basically, as long as you have separated paragraphs and a thesis in a drawing - you have an art pre-write.
What does a classification and analysis paper look like?

• Attached is a sample English essay by a Union Mine student.
• General rubrics for how these are graded are also in the “Rubric” section of this website.
Any last minute advise?

- Be careful not to make generalizations or stereotypes for your categories
  For example- don’t state that all blondes are dumb
- Be sure to include specific details that back up a useful and meaningful purpose to your classification
- To put it simply- be fair, be valid and make sure the information you provide is necessary