

MEETING 5

CLASSIFICATION TEXT

The purpose of a classification paragraph is to clearly define something and place it in a group according to some basis or rule so that it only fits in one group. In order to be successful at this you have to be very detailed. The same information *can be* classified into more than one category, but the classification paragraph sticks to one basis of classification. The topic sentence has two parts: the topic and the basis of classification, which is the controlling idea; it controls how the writer approaches the subject.

Classification: to gather into types, kinds, or categories according to a single basis of division.

Logical sequence: list the categories in this order: either most to least outrageous, least to most expensive, from largest to smallest and so on.

Transitional expressions:

1. can be divided
2. can be classified
3. can be categorized
4. the first type
5. the second kind
6. the last category

EXERCISE 1: Ways of Classifying

Three possible ways to classify sports:

1. By price: expensive, cheap, free
2. By number of players: team, two-player, alone
3. By location: sea, countryside, city

For each of the following topics, think of three different ways the topic could be classified.

1. Topic: Friends
2. Topic: Mobile technology
3. Topic: houses
4. Topic Study habits
5. Topic: Department stores

EXERCISE 2: Classification paragraph/essay terminology

- 1) is/are a kind of = Bananas **are a kind of** of fruit.

- 2) Can be divided into = Energy can **be divided into two types**: renewable and non--renewable.
- 3) Are (?) types of = There **are three popular types of** movie: action, romantic, and science fiction.
- 4) Belongs to = The Ipad **belongs to the category of** mobile technology.
- 5) Is a part of =A chair **is a part of the category** of household furniture.
- 6) Fits into = Avatar **fits into the category** of fantasy movie.

Write four sentences of your own using the terminology above

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

EXAMPLES:

A. Rock Music

There are three different types of rock music, alternative rock, classic rock, and hard rock, also known as metal. Alternative rock features a steady bass drum laying down the beat, with easy flowing guitar riffs over the top. The bass line is toned down, and the lyrics are sung with intensity an authority. Depending on the song, the guitars can either be acoustic guitars or electric guitars. Classic rock combines a steady driving bass drum sound, with high snare overtones, steady and often repeating guitar riffs, and an intensive bass line. The guitars are more often than not all electric guitars, and distortion is rarely used. The lyrics are sung with style and enthusiasm. Hard rock, or metal, features a hard rolling bass drum with an abundant amount of cymbal work. This style of rock uses several electric guitars with heavy distortion to bring a very intense sound. A hard, intense, driving bass line rounds out the style. The lyrics aren't really sung so much as screamed. It doesn't matter what your preference is, each different style of rock music is unique on its own.

B. Daters Beware

Men can be categorized by the way they treat women while dating into three groups: a social addict, a content lover, or a keeper. The first type, a social addict, is the type of man who is constantly late and everything is on his time. Social addicts are particularly self absorbed. For your birthday this type of dater will give you a gift such as a necklace, so that everybody can notice it. When it comes down to emotions and feelings, a social addict will say whatever he assume you want to hear at any given moment. The second

type of dater, a content lover, is a guy who will come and go as he pleases. These men just seem to be in attendance but not involved. When he is with you, he will not open up and share his thoughts. A content lover will forget your birthday all together. Lastly there is the keeper who will not keep you waiting; in fact, he always plans ahead and involves you in the decision making. To them, your birthday is tremendously important. They will give you time for your friends and family; in addition, they always make unique plans for the two of you later that evening. Unlike the other types of daters, the keeper will attempt to be 100% in touch with their feelings towards you and are willing to talk about them. Men's dating styles differ; nonetheless, it all comes down to what behavior you are in the mood for.

EXERCISE

Studying for a Test

Phase 1 of studying for a test, often called the "no problem" phase, runs from the day the test is announced to approximately forty-eight hours before the dreaded exam is passed out. During phase 1, the student is carefree, smiling, and kind to helpless animals and small children. When asked by classmates if he or she has studied for the test yet, the reply will be an assured "No problem." During phase 1, no actual studying takes place. Phase 2 is entered two days before the test. For example, if the test is scheduled for 9 A.M. Friday, phase 2 begins at 9 A.M. Wednesday. During phase 2, again, no actual studying takes place. Phase 3, the final phase, is entered twelve hours before "zero hour," This is the cram phase, characterized by sweaty palms, nervous twitches, and confused mental patterns. For a test at nine o'clock on Friday morning, a student begins exhibiting these symptoms at approximately nine o'clock on Thursday night. Phase 3 is also termed the "shock" phase, since the student is shocked to discover the imminence of the exam and the amount of material to be studied. During this phase, the student will probably be unable to sleep and will mumble meaningless phrases like "a + c." This phase will not end until the exam is over. If the cram session has worked, the student will fall gratefully asleep that night, On waking up, he or she will be ready to go through the whole cycle again with the next test.

Three Kinds of Dogs

A city walker will notice that most dogs fall into one of three categories. First there are the big dogs, which are generally harmless and often downright friendly. They walk along peacefully with their masters, their tongues hanging out and big goofy grins on their faces. Apparently they know they're too big to have anything to worry about, so why not be nice? Second are the spunky medium-sized dogs. When they see a stranger approaching, they go on alert, they prick up their ears, they raise their hackles, and they

may growl a little deep in their throats. "I could tear you up," they seem to be saying, "but I won't if you behave yourself." Unless the walker leaps for their master's throat, these dogs usually won't do anything more than threaten, The third category is made up of the shivering neurotic little yappers whose shrill barks could shatter glass and whose needle-like little teeth are eager to sink into a friendly outstretched hand, Walkers always wonder about these dogs – don't they know that people who really wanted to could squash them under their feet like bugs? Apparently not, because of all the dogs a walker meets, these provide the most irritation. Such dogs are only one of the potential hazards that the city walker encounters.

About Unity

1. Which paragraph lacks a topic sentence? _____
2. Which sentence in "Three Kinds of Dogs" should be eliminated in the interest of paragraph unity? _____

About Support

3. Which of the three phases in "Studying for a Test" lacks specific details?

About Coherence

4. Which sentences in "Three Kinds of Dogs" contain transition words or phrases?

This next activity will sharpen your sense of the classifying process. In each of the ten groups, cross out the one item that has not been classified on the same basis as the other three. Also, indicate in the space provided the single principle of classification used for the remaining three items. Note the examples:

Example: Water

- a. Cold
- b. Lake
- c. Hot
- d. Lukewarm

Unifying principle:

Temperatures

Example: Household pests

- a. Mice
- b. Ants
- c. Roaches
- d. Flies

Unifying principle:

Insects

1. Eyes

- a. Blue
- b. Nearsighted
- c. Brown
- d. Hazel

Unifying principle:

2. Vacation

- a. Summer
- b. Holiday
- c. Seashore
- d. Weekend

Unifying principle:

3. Mattresses

- a. Double
- b. Twin
- c. Queen
- d. Firm

Unifying principle:

4. Books

- a. Novels
- b. Biographies
- c. Boring
- d. Short stories

Unifying principle:

5. Wallets

- a. Leather
- b. Plastic
- c. Stolen
- d. Fabric

Unifying principle:

6. Zoo animals

- a. Flamingo
- b. Peacock
- c. Polar bear
- d. Ostrich

Unifying principle:

7. Newspaper

- a. Wrapping garbage
- b. Editorials
- c. Making paper planes
- d. Covering floor while painting

Unifying principle:

8. Exercise

- a. Running
- b. Swimming
- c. Gymnastics
- d. Fatigue

Unifying principle:

9. Students

- a. First-year
- b. Transfer
- c. Junior
- d. Sophomore

Unifying principle:

10. Leftovers

- a. Cold chicken
- b. Feed to dog
- c. Reheat
- d. Use in a stew

Unifying principle:
