

Writing Assignment 2: Classification Essay

Timeline:

★ Thursday Jan. 31: Write classification essay in class. Time: 1 hour. There will be no revisions of this essay.

Requirements of Summary Paper

- ★ **Length:** 450 - 700 words is reasonable; be sure you write a COMPLETE essay, including a full Conclusion. I am VERY concerned that you write a full and interesting paper. I am NOT interested in the exact number of words.
- ★ **Format:** Use a blue book (25¢ in the bookstore). Handwrite neatly and double-space. Please use one side of the paper. Pen or pencil are both OK.
- ★ **Topic:** I will provide a short list of topics (three or four) to choose from. Your topic MUST be one I offer, but you will divide the topic in any way you choose.
- ★ **Please Include:** A fast brainstorm on the first few pages of the blue book showing your topic and the criterion. The brainstorm may be in the form of an outline.
- ★ **Thesis Statement:** Include clear Intro with Thesis Statement something like:
“First-year soldiers can be classified into four groups.”
“Video game players can be divided up by age.”
“There are three basic friendship types: the supportive, the competitive, and the selfish.”

More on In-Class Writing

The purpose of in-class writing is to test the student's real writing ability under exam conditions. Students will not know the essay questions before the in-class test. They should apply all they have learned in terms of essay development, organization, the thesis statement, syntax, and grammar. In grading in-class writing, instructors pay a lot of attention to correct sentence structure. Students who are still making grammatical errors in every sentence will probably not pass an in-class writing test.

Remember that the body paragraphs of your in-class essay should form most of your writing. The Body should contain interesting details, explanations, and examples to illustrate your topic sentence. It is not the number of paragraphs, but rather how well they are developed which is important.

A Suggested Writing Plan

1. Spend at least 10 minutes at the beginning writing an outline: thesis statement; topic sentences and examples for a limited number of body paragraphs; a concluding idea.
2. Spend about 35 - 40 minutes writing the essay. Don't write too much: the basic requirements for a good in-class essay will be logical development of ideas, clear organization, and sound sentence structure and punctuation.
3. Revise and edit for the final 10 - 15 minutes of class. Review for errors in usage of articles, verb tenses, verb forms, subject-verb agreement, prepositions, noun plurals, word forms, vocabulary, punctuation, and spelling. You may even have time to rewrite parts of the essay.

Keep an Eye on the Clock!