**Division-Classification**

This style of writing it used to break down a larger topic into smaller pieces. This can be done for multiple reasons, but regardless of the purpose of your essay, this is something we do every day without realizing it:

What do you want for dinner?

Which movie should you watch?

What college should you attend?

How do you get ready for work?

All of these choices involve dividing your question into categories, and you then make your decision by deciding which topic is “the best choice.”

Without systems, categories or sorting mechanisms, we would be overwhelmed by life’s complexity.

An organization such as a college or university is made manageable by being divided into various schools (Liberal Arts, Performing Arts, Engineer, etc.)

The schools are then separated into departments (English, History, Political Science, etc.) and each department’s offerings are grouped into distinct categories.

For instance, English is separated into Literature and Composition before being further divided into specific courses.

**Breaking Down Division- Classification**

**Division:**

Involves taking a single unit or concept, breaking it down into parts, and then analyzing the connections among the parts and between the parts and the whole.

For instance, a hospital could be broken down into its components – Pediatric wing, Cardiac wing, maternity wing.

That’s division – taking a single entity (a hospital) and dividing it into some of its component parts (wings), each with its own facilities and patients.

**Classification:**

Brings two or more related items together and categorizes them according to types or kind.

In a supermarket, clerks classify the items in the store:

Produce –lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers

Dairy – butter, yogurt, milk

Hair products – shampoo, conditioner, hair gel

**Why Use it?**

In writing, **division** involves breaking a subject into parts; it can be a helpful strategy during prewriting, especially if you’re analyzing a broad, complex subject like the structure of a film, the motivation of a chapter in a novel, the problem your community has with vandalism, the controversy surrounding school prayer.

**Classification** can be useful for imposing order within the ideas you generate during your prewriting. Then, examine this material and choose which ideas are alike and which are not. This creates clustering (or grouping) of each piece of content that fits within the same category.

Classification would be a helpful strategy when analyzing topics such as techniques for impressing teachers, comic styles of talk-show shots, views on abortion, and the reasons for the current rise in volunteerism.

The classification-division essay is simply this process written out for your reader. In this way, walking your reader through your thought process helps them to arrive at the same conclusion, which ultimately allows the reader to understand your perspective.

**Prewriting Strategies**

*(Choose a subject to analyze)*

* What fairly complex subject (sibling rivalry, religious cults) can be made more understandable through division-classification?
* Will you divide a single entity or concept (domestic violence) into parts (toward spouse, parent or child)? Will you classify a number of similar things (college courses) into categories (easy, of average difficulty, tough)?
* Or will you use both division and classification?

Determine your purpose, audience tone and point of view

* What is the purpose of your analysis?
* Toward what audience will you direct your explanation?
* What tone and point of view will make readers receptive to your explanation?

Use prewriting to general material on parts or types

* How can brainstorming, mapping or any other prewriting technique help you divide your subject into parts?
* What differences or similarities among parts will you emphasize?
* How can brainstorming, mapping or any other prewriting technique help you categories your subjects?
* What difference or similarities among categories will you emphasize?
* How can the patterns of development help you generate material about your subjects; parts or categories?
* How can you describe the parts or categories?
* What can you narrate about them?
* What examples illustrate them?
* What process do they help explain?
* How can they be compared or contrasted?
* What causes them?
* What are their effects?
* How can they be defined?
* What arguments do they support?

**Development Diagram**

**Prewriting**

Select a subject to be simplified or analyzed or one that has diverse parts to be ordered

Use brainstorming and mapping to determine the parts of your subject or to group like parts together.

**Identify a Thesis**

Consider signaling the plan of development in the thesis statement.

**Find Evidence**

Choose a single principle for each major section

Check that each principle serves your purpose and audience

Select evidence from your prewriting that supports the principle

**Organize the Evidence**

**Division Method**

Identify a single unit or concept

Break the unit or concept into parts

**Classification Method**

Identify a list of items

Group them by type or similarities

**Write a Draft**

Make your analysis as complete and consistent as possible

Try to discuss comparable points in each section

Supply clear transitions to clarify connections

State your conclusions or recommendations in the final section

**Revise Paragraphs and Sentences**

Check that the division-classification analysis is logically developed, consistent and complete

**Edit and Proofread**

**General Writing Topics**

Using division-classification, these topics can be developed into an essay:

**Division**

Shopping mall

Video system

Particular kind of team

School library

College campus

**Classification**

Commercials

Holidays

Roommates

Summer movies

Internet surfers

**Assignments with a specific purpose, audience, and point of view**

**Academic life.**

You’re a dorm counselor. During orientation week, you’ll be talking to students on your floor about the different kinds of problems they may have with roommates. Write your talk, describing each kind of problem and explaining how to cope.

**Academic life.**

As your college newspaper’s TV critic, you plan to write a review of the fall shows, most of which – in your opinion –lack originality. To show how stereotypical the programs are, select one type (for example, situation comedies or crime dramas). Then use a specific division-classification principle to illustrate that the same stale formulates are trotted out from show to show.

**Academic life.**

Asked to write an editorial for the campus paper, you decide to do a half-serious piece about taking “mental health” days off from classes. Structure your essay around three kinds of occasions when “playing hooky” is essential for maintaining sanity.

**Civic activity.**

Your favorite magazine runs an editorial asking readers to send in what they think are the main challenges facing their particular gender group. Write a letter to the editor in which you identify at least three categories of problems your sex faces. Be sure to provide lively, specific examples to illustrate each category.

**Workplace action.**

As a driving instructor, you decide to prepare a lecture on the types of drivers your students are likely to encounter on the road. In your lecture, categorize drivers according to a specific principle and show the behaviors of each type.

**Workplace action.**

A seasoned camp counselor, you’ve been asked to prepare for new counselors an information sheet on children’s emotional needs. Categorize these needs and explain what counselors can do to nurture youngsters emotionally.