

# COMP

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## Classification

# LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1 Understand how to read classification essays
- 2 Devise a suitable classification plan
- 3 Create categories that are consistent, exclusive, and complete
- 4 Title categories clearly
- 5 Illustrate distinctive and shared traits of categories
- 6 Write, revise, and edit a classification essay



# Understand How to Read Classification Essays

- Consider the rhetorical situation for classification writing
  - *Purpose - Writers classify a body of information to:*
    - Explain its order
    - Clarify relationships
    - Locate specific items within a larger structure
  - *Audience - Readership can vary greatly*
  - *Topic - Classification is used with topics that include a complex body of individual items*



# Understand How to Read Classification Essays

- Classification principles
  - *Consistency*
  - *Exclusivity*
  - *Completeness*

# Devise a Classification Scheme Suitable for Your Writing Situation


- Essay titled “Why We Lift” by writer Hillary Gammons
  - *Using classification to identify college students who use the university gym*
  - *Categories of weight lifters*
    - Health enthusiasts
    - Toners
    - Athletes
    - Bodybuilders

# Create Categories that are Consistent, Exclusive, & Complete

- Essay titled “Latin American Music: A Diverse and Unifying Force” by student writer Kathleen Kropp
  - *Classification strategies are used to describe the nature of Latin American music*
  - *Forms of Latin American music*
    - Indigenous
    - Iberian and Mestizo folk
    - Afro-American
    - Urban popular - Rock, heavy metal, punk, hip-hop, jazz, reggae, and R & B

# Title Categories Clearly

- Essay titled “The Lion, the Witch, and the Metaphor” by award-winning journalist Jessica Seigel
  - *Sorts readers into adventurers and believers*
  - *Writer insists that fables and children’s stories are individually composed of layers of meanings*
    - Surface level for adventurers
    - Depths for believers



# Illustrate Distinctive and Shared Traits of Categories

- Many classification essays separate a topic into categories for:
  - *Pointing out distinctive and shared traits of each category*
- John Van Rys’s “Four Ways to Talk About Literature” illustrates how:
  - *Categories are similar and different*
  - *Critics representing each category might analyze Robert Browning’s “My Last Duchess”*



# Write, Revise, and Edit a Classification Essay

- Planning
  - *Select a topic*
  - *Look at the big picture*
  - *Choose and test your criteria*
  - *Gather and organize information*
  - *Draft a thesis*
- Drafting
  - *Opening*
  - *Middle*
  - *Closing*

# Write, Revise, and Edit a Classification Essay

- Revising
  - *Improve the ideas, organization, and voice*
- Edit the essay
  - *Words*
  - *Sentences*
  - *Correctness*
  - *Page design*
- Publish the essay

# SUMMARY

- Classification helps writers make sense of large or complex sets of things
- Sorting helps a writer discuss things as individuals
- By using an additional strategy, compare contrast, the writer can show similarities and differences between individuals or groups

