

Essay Topics for Classification-Division

The prompt to read this information appears on p. 146 of *Acting on Words*.

Expository

1. If you have personal experience in the service industry, classify three or four types of customer. Organize your list as meaningfully as you can.
2. If you have experience with personality typology, identify three or four distinctive types within a certain system that you know and have researched (e.g. Myers-Briggs). Alternatively, discuss three or four astrological signs, but remember the complexity of shadings that occur (i.e. serious astrologers base definitions on a multitude of indications, not simply the sun sign).
3. Discuss your cat, dog, or other pet with reference to two or three of its “cousins” in the taxonomic system used to group animals.
4. Classify three possible future routes that you might follow to go somewhere, and end with a reflective thought on what this exercise may have helped you to decide or understand.
5. Classify items of a recommended daily diet.

Critical

Is the Western modern use of classification-division an ideal approach to knowing? Contrast it to another approach (e.g. Aboriginal) that you know from experience and/or research. This topic will involve elements of definition (see Chapter 11), and you may find yourself classifying three or so features and effects for both the Western approach to knowing and the Other (as chosen by you). You will also employ comparison-contrast structure. See Chapter 12 for that.