

Classification Essay

The first of our two essays for the quarter will be a classification essay. Like other essays, a classification essay turns out best when it doesn't feel canned—little is less appealing than an essay that feels as though it has been written under duress to suit an assignment. When confronted with such an essay, readers simply think, “I wonder why this person wrote this.” Don't make your reader wonder! Infuse your essay with a sense of purpose. Offer the reader a meaningful journey through your ideas rather than a dull slog through something you were forced to produce. Give the reader more than he or she hoped for. If the essay approaches the subject matter with sensitivity and an eye to the reader's need for value, the essay will achieve something grand.

Instead of getting hung up on the assignment's specifications, then, spend your time working on making the essay into an *essay*—this is your chance to take a stance and explain ideas as beautifully, forcefully, and intricately as you can. This piece can demonstrate the abilities you've been working on all quarter as you've improved your reading comprehension, critical thinking, and paragraph structure. Use this essay to showcase what's unique and interesting about the way you view the topic.

Requirements—Write a classification essay in which you describe laudable traits that allow regular people to achieve difficult—or maybe even nearly impossible—things. Use examples from your own experience as well as *Three Cups of Tea*¹ to support your perspective. (Please pay close attention when we cover quoting & paraphrasing on Tuesday & Thursday of this week.) Infuse your paper with a sense of purpose beyond the dull sense of assigned work, and give readers who don't know you and never will a reason to respect and care about what you say. Use especially the “Before Writing a Classification Essay” questions listed on pages 99-100 to help you as you begin writing.

The Basics

--Write in 3rd person as much as possible. Write in 1st person when necessary. Avoid 2nd person.

--The essay should be 700-850 words.

--Include all of the expected parts of the essay

- Thesis
- Topic sentences
- Paragraphing
- Transitions
- Introduction
- Conclusion
- Title

--Double space

--Write to an educated, interested general audience.

--If you need extra help, visit the Writing Center or see me during my office hours.

¹ Please note that you're required to use *Three Cups of Tea* as a source.