Write on Track
GHC Writing Center
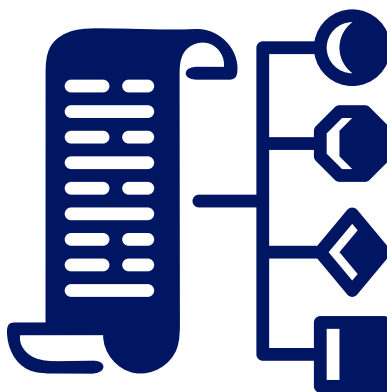
Writing a Classification & Division

WHAT ARE CLASSIFICATION AND DIVISION?

Classification is a way to explain something by detailing how it fits within a category or group. Division breaks something up into separate parts and examines the relationships among them. A great purpose for a classification and division essay, then, is to explore the nature of something by studying its parts and their relationship to the larger whole.

WHEN WRITING...

When writing a classification and division essay, you are able to gain two different perspectives on a subject. When using classification, you establish the groups or categories your subject belongs to, and when using division, you examine the relationships among the parts that together make up the subject you are writing about

Classification and division are very common to the way we already think. For example, we classify and divide the plant and animal kingdoms.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR REVISION

- Have you made sure that your classification and division are complete? Have you included all of the parts of the subject? If you've left out any parts or categories, then your classification and division are incomplete.
- Have you overlapped the categories, groups, or parts in your classification and division? Check to make sure that you haven't essentially duplicated categories or parts with very similar distinctions.
- Have you accurately classified and divided your subject? Any inaccuracies or misrepresentations will only muddle your classification and division of the subject.

Kirszner, Laurie G., and Stephen R. Mandell. "Classification and Division." *Patterns for College Writing: A Rhetorical Reader and Guide*, Bedford/St. Martin's, Boston, 2021, pp. 433–440.