The classification paragraph

- ## *Definition*

Some subjects are very complicated or contain many parts. A simple explanation or description of these subjects often is not enough for your readers to understand them fully. How, then, do you get your point across? Sometimes, you need to break a larger point into smaller points so you can explain it in your writing. **Classification** is the process of separating out smaller points from a larger concept and organizing these smaller points into easily recognized groups.

In other words, classification refers to the division of a given topic into groups, categories, and so on. These groups must share similar type or category; they can be based on color, shape, kind, or any other type of category that readers will understand easily. For instance, if you were asked to write a paragraph about the works of William Shakespeare, you can classify them into sonnets, histories, comedies, tragedies, dark comedies, and romances. You can classify people, books, schools, and so on. If dividing a topic into categories, there should be a **principle** on which the classification is based.

- ### **Example 1**

Dress slacks might be classified according to **fabric** to: cotton, twill, wool. Fabric is the unit or principle of the classification.

Adding a category of *price range* would be inappropriate. Price does not belong to fabric.

- ### **Example 2**

Movies can be classified according to their **content** to: romance, comedy, and horror. Content is the principle of the classification.

- ### **Example 3**

Shoes can be classified according to their **type** to: wingtip, athletic, high heel. Adding the *blue color* does not belong with the types of shoes.

- ## *The topic sentence*

The classification paragraph begins with a topic sentence that clearly states the subject, how the subject will be divided, and why classifying the subject is important. The topic sentence presents a topic and an organizing principle/unit i.e. how things are classified. For instance, they are classified by: kind, color, age, race, etc.

Topic sentence ⟶

> (Topic + controlling idea (types/categories))
>
> *Principle (optional to be mentioned in the topic sentence)*
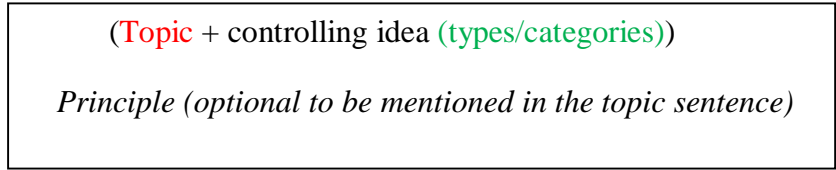
Example

Topic: Universities

Topic sentence: Universities can be classified into two types depending on *fees*.

➢ Write topic sentences for the following topics:

1. **Topic:** *clothing styles*

   Topic sentence:

   ……………………………………………………………………………………………

   ……………………………………………………………………………………………

2. **Topic:** *television shows*

   Topic sentence: ……..

   ……………………………………………………………………………………………..

The supporting sentences

In connection with this type of paragraphs, the supporting sentences should order the types logically where the classified types are ordered one after the other in order to make the distinction between the classified categories.

Category/type 1+ details (definitions/examples…)

Category/type 2+ details (definitions/examples…)

Category/type 3+ details (definitions/examples…)

Practice: Choose one of the topic sentences from the previous task. Then list the types/categories.

Topic sentence:

………………………………………………………………………………………….

Supporting sentences

……………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………

……………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………

……………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………

…………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………

- ## *The concluding sentence*

Restate the topic sentence, summarize the major points, predict or suggest something which is related of course to the topic.

Write a paragraph plan

Refer to previous exercises' information you generated and construct a paragraph plan. If you are considering new details which will clarify your argument more effectively, add them here.

Topic sentence

………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Support1:

…………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………

Details

…………………………………………………………………………………………………
…………………………………..

Support 2:

…………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………….

Details

………………………………………………………………………………………………….
…………………………………….

Support3:

…………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………….

Details…………………………………………………………………………………………
… ………………………………

Concluding sentence………………………………………………………………………

The first draft

You are ready to write your first draft after outlining your ideas in a plan. Remember to write complete sentences. You can include transitional phrases to help your ideas flow smoothly.

- ## Transitional signals

When writing a paragraph based on classification, you will probably need to use words and phrases like the following:

> **Words and Phrases Used in Classification Paragraphs**
> There are *several types of* reactions to . . .
> There are *numerous kinds of* . . .
> Skin cancers *can be classified as* . . .
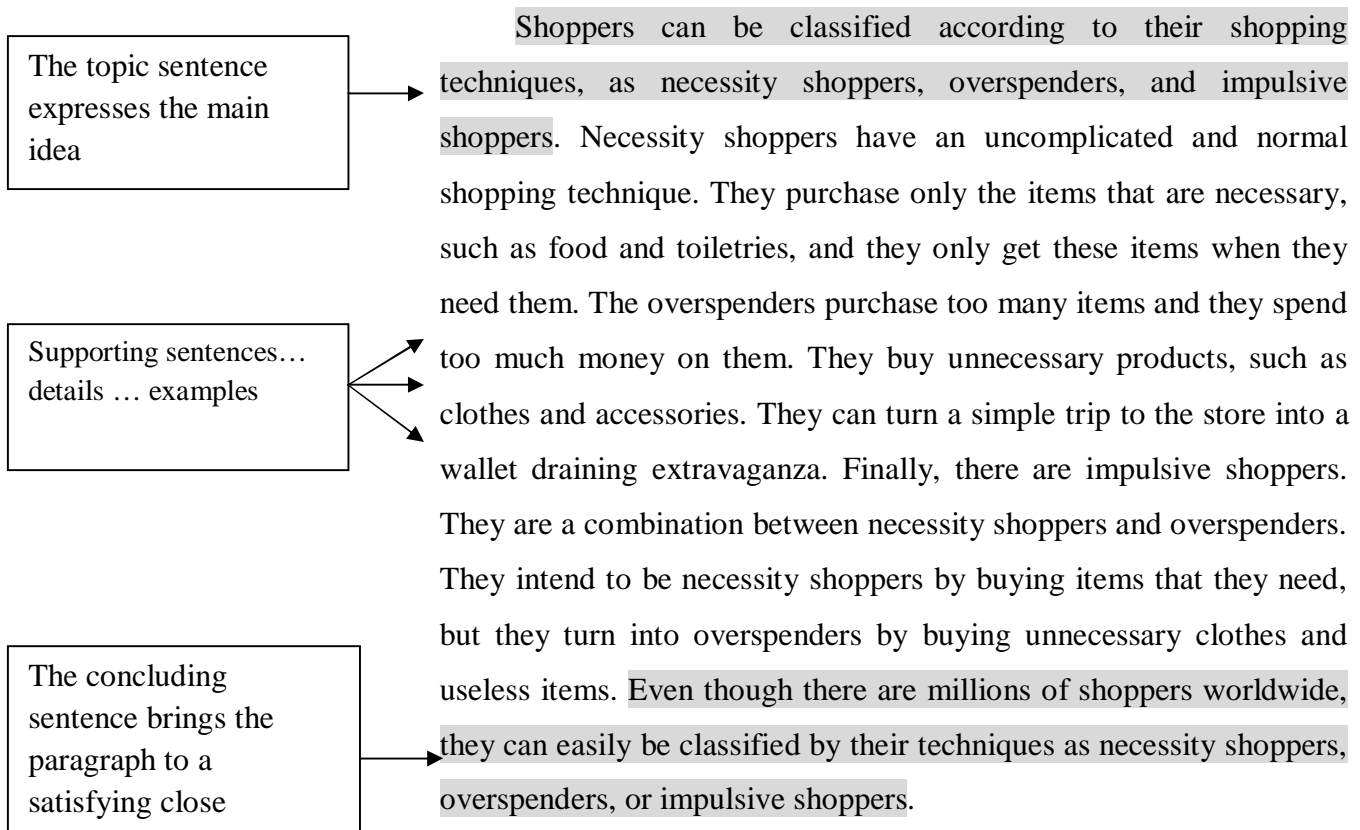> The judicial system *is composed of* . . .
> Facial muscles *comprise* . . .
> *One type of* engine . . .
> Another *type of* engine is . . .
> *Finally,* there is . . .

Model paragraph

The topic sentence expresses the main idea	Shoppers can be classified according to their shopping techniques, as necessity shoppers, overspenders, and impulsive shoppers. Necessity shoppers have an uncomplicated and normal shopping technique. They purchase only the items that are necessary, such as food and toiletries, and they only get these items when they need them. The overspenders purchase too many items and they spend too much money on them. They buy unnecessary products, such as clothes and accessories. They can turn a simple trip to the store into a wallet draining extravaganza. Finally, there are impulsive shoppers. They are a combination between necessity shoppers and overspenders. They intend to be necessity shoppers by buying items that they need, but they turn into overspenders by buying unnecessary clothes and useless items. Even though there are millions of shoppers worldwide, they can easily be classified by their techniques as necessity shoppers, overspenders, or impulsive shoppers.
Supporting sentences… details … examples	
The concluding sentence brings the paragraph to a satisfying close	

Assignment

Select one of the following topics/ or your own topic and develop it into a paragraph based on classification.

-video games
-friends
-gifts
-Careers
-neighborhoods in your city
-favorite foods
-types of popular music
-methods of relaxation