**Division/Classification**

Dividing/classifying is a technique that breaks down a topic into identifiable types and groups. It can be as specific as scientific data—the various types of a disease, or it can be a sociological approach—the various levels of class systems within a society. Division/Classification sorts a large topic into categories that help focus our understanding of that topic. Division/classification may comprise an entire essay, or it may be an element that helps develop a longer essay.

**Example**

You may write an informative paper on the various types of therapy available: behavioral, group, analysis, etc. Or you could write a speculative paper in which you attempt to classify an abstract subject such as the various types of love.

**Strategies to consider**

1. Focus around a single, guiding principle. Select a single criterion and then develop your categories around the criterion. For example, if your single principle is based on various techniques of therapy, you can’t suddenly switch mid-paper to the various pioneers in psychology. Be consistent. Each category must relate specifically to your principle.
2. Address the entire issue. Once you have chosen your subject, you can’t leave any of the elements out of that subject. In looking at various forms of therapy, a paper that leaves out the classic, first form of therapy, Freudian analysis, is incomplete.
3. Make sure each category is separate. If two categories aren’t separate, but related, you’ll find yourself repeating, rather than developing. If you talk about behavior therapy and then discuss behavior modification as another, separate category, you’ll find you’re saying the same things.
4. Give each category equal importance. Balance your essay by giving equal emphasis to each category. It is lopsided to concentrate fully on group therapy, and then barely mention family therapy.

**Assignment**  
Choose one of the options below:

1. Revise one of your essays, adding division/classification as an element that develops that essay.
2. Write a classification essay, choosing one career field, such as education or business, and categorizing the different types of professions available within this field.
3. Write a division essay, dividing current television shows and/or films into three major types, supplying examples for each.