

Topic Brainstorming Worksheet (Classification Essay)

This worksheet guides you step■by■step from broad subject areas to a refined list of potential classification essay topics. Use it to generate 5–10 topic options and select the strongest one.

Step 1: Identify 3–5 Broad Subject Areas

Examples: education, technology, food, lifestyle, travel.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Step 2: Possible Organizing Principles

- By purpose
- By demographic
- By benefit
- By challenge
- By behavior
- By frequency
- By complexity
- By type/category

Write 1–2 organizing principles that could fit each broad area:

Area 1: _____

Possible principles: _____

Area 2: _____

Possible principles: _____

Area 3: _____

Possible principles: _____

Area 4: _____

Possible principles: _____

Area 5: _____

Possible principles: _____

Step 3: Develop Possible Categories

Choose a promising area + organizing principle. Brainstorm 3–6 meaningful categories.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Step 4: Turn These Into 5–10 Possible Topics

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Step 5: Evaluate and Select the Strongest Topic

- Is it narrow enough?
- Does it allow for 3–5 clear categories?
- Does the organizing principle make sense?
- Can I explain each category meaningfully?
- Will the topic interest my audience?

Final Selected Topic:
