## Classification

Classification creates order out of confusion. Classification takes a careful look at many units of people, places, or things and groups two or more of them together based on similarities that are closely related. In writing, classification helps to organize complicated ideas. Most subjects can be divided in more ways than one. Therefore, creating a classification around a single idea develops the controlling principle or purpose of an essay.

The controlling principle establishes how the chosen units are interrelated. Be careful to avoid features that overlap from one category to the next. Each category should be an exclusive division. Use words like **types**, **classes**, **groups**, **different kinds of**, **and categories** to develop classification essays.

