

Classification Rubric

Genre Chart Classification	4 Exceeded Goal	3 Accomplished Goal	2 Just Beginning	1 Hasn't Started
1 Engages the reader	Uses two engaging strategies effectively	Uses an engaging strategy effectively	Attempts to use an engaging strategy	Does not use an engaging strategy
2 Establishes a clear thesis	Establishes a strong, purposeful thesis	Establishes a clear thesis	Thesis is unclear	Does not include a thesis
3 Categorizes information with headings	Headings reflect the main ideas of paragraphs and support thesis	Headings are used to categorize information	Headings do not reflect the main idea of paragraphs	Does not include headings
4 Develops topic with facts, definitions, details, quotations, and examples	Topic thoroughly developed with facts, details, quotations, and examples	Topic is well developed with facts, details, quotations, and examples	Topic development is weak	Lacks topic development
5 Uses academic language that shows an awareness of audience	Academic language reflects considerable knowledge of topic and audience	Academic language reflects knowledge of topic and audience	Attempts to use academic language	Does not use academic language
6 Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings	Transitions and varied sentence beginnings create fluid writing within and across paragraphs	Uses transitions to connect ideas and varies sentence beginnings	Uses minimal transitions and varied sentence beginnings	Does not use transitions or vary sentence beginnings
7 Includes graph or illustration to aid comprehension	Graph or illustration enhances comprehension	Graph or illustration aids comprehension	Includes illustration or graph but connection to topic is unclear	Does not include illustration or graph
8 Concludes with a summary of the main points	Conclusion summarizes main points in a different way	Conclusion summarizes the main points	Conclusion does not summarize the main points	Does not have a conclusion
9 Correct conventions support meaning	Insignificant or no errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar	A few errors pop out but do not interfere with the essay	Frequent errors distract the reader	So many errors it is hard to read

Presidents and First Ladies

Note: This is not a comprehensive list of Presidents and First Ladies.

George Washington
Martha Washington

Abraham Lincoln
Mary Ann Lincoln

Franklin D. Roosevelt
Eleanor Roosevelt

Thomas Jefferson

Theodore Roosevelt
Edith Roosevelt

John F. Kennedy
Jacqueline Kennedy

Dwight D. Eisenhower
Mamie Eisenhower

Ulysses S. Grant
Julia Grant

Woodrow Wilson
Ellen Wilson

Andrew Jackson
Rachel Jackson

George W. Bush
Laura Bush

William J Clinton
Hillary Clinton

Barack Obama
Michelle Obama

Richard Nixon
Thelma Nixon

James Carter
Rosallynn Carter

Website Evaluation

Name _____

Date _____

Website #1: _____

Topic: _____

URL (check one) .gov .net .com .edu .mil .org

What does the URL tell you about the site? _____

Purpose of Site (check all that apply) inform persuade entertain

How do you know? _____

Authority and Credibility Who is the author? _____

What are their credentials and do they have authority to speak on the subject? _____

Is there any way to contact the company? How? _____

Does the website provide references or an organization sponsoring the site? _____

Objectivity

Does the website have an obvious bias? _____ What? _____

Is the bias obvious or hidden? How do you know? _____

How does the bias impact the usefulness of the information? _____

Design and Content

Does the website look official? _____ Can you easily move from page to page? _____

Are there any broken links? _____ Are there mistakes in spelling or word usage? _____ If so, what does that suggest? _____

Think about the type and purpose of the site. Using the information above, write a short reflection about whether you think this website is suitable for your research.

Website Evaluation

Website #2: _____ Topic: (Same as website #1)

URL (check one) .gov .net .com .edu .mil .org

What does the URL tell you about the site? _____

Purpose of Site (check all that apply) inform persuade entertain

How do you know? _____

Authority and Credibility Who is the author? _____

What are their credentials and do they have authority to speak on the subject? _____

Is there any way to contact the company? How? _____

Does the website provide references or an organization sponsoring the site? _____

Objectivity

Does the website have an obvious bias? ____ What? _____

Is the bias obvious or hidden? How do you know? _____

How does the bias impact the usefulness of the information? _____

Design and Content

Does the website look official? _____ Can you easily move from page to page? _____

Are there any broken links? _____ Are there mistakes in spelling or word usage? _____ If so,

what does that suggest? _____

Think about the type and purpose of the site. Using the information above, write a short reflection about whether you think this website is suitable for your research.

Ideas for Research

I. Early Years

- a. Birth
 - i. Where
 - ii. When
- b. Family
 - i. Parents
 - ii. Siblings
- c. Where did he/she live?
- d. Childhood
 - i. Activities/Interests
- e. Education

II. Middle Years

- a. Marriage
 - i. Who
 - ii. When
- b. Children
- c. Work experience
- d. Influences – person or event that was particularly influential

III. Later Years

- a. Retired or continued working
- b. Tragedies or successes during this time
- c. Death
 - i. Date
 - ii. Cause

IV. Significance

- a. Why was/is this person significant?

Mrs. Johnson Research

Mrs. Johnson’s father was Thomas Jefferson Taylor, owner of a general store who declared himself “dealer in everything.” Her mother, Minnie Pattillo Taylor, died when the little girl was but five-years old. She had two older brothers, Tommy and Tony. After her mother’s death, Mrs. Johnson’s Aunt Effie Pattillo moved to Karnack to look after her. At an early age, a nursemaid said she was “as purty as a lady bird” – thereafter she became known to her family and friends as “Lady Bird.”

<http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu>

Heading

Sample Notes

My paraphrase

Early Life

Her dad owned a general store. Her mother died when she was five. Her two older brothers were Tommy and Tony. A nursemaid gave her the nickname she would have for the rest of her life: Lady Bird.

“as purty as a lady bird.” From her nurse maid

Direct quote

Electronic Source #1

<http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu>

Where the information was found. Include on the “Source Documentation” sheet

Source Documentation

Internet Sources

Source #1

Author name(s): _____

Title of web page or article: _____

Title of the website: _____

Other contributors or name of institution associated with site: _____

Publication date or the date you accessed the website: _____

URL (full web address): _____

Source #2

Author name(s): _____

Title of web page or article: _____

Title of the website: _____

Other contributors or name of institution associated with site: _____

Publication date or the date you accessed the website: _____

URL (full web address): _____

Print Source

Author(s) and Editor(s): _____

Title of book/article: _____

Title of the journal, newspaper, or magazine: _____

Other contributors: _____

Edition and/or volume (if applicable): _____

Publisher: _____

Publication date: _____

Page number(s): _____

Art Work (Electronic Source)

Artist's name: _____

Title of artwork: _____

Title of Container: _____

Medium: _____

Institution or owner of the art: _____

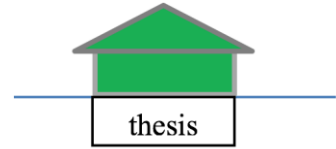
Date of artwork or the date you accessed the art: _____

Full web address: _____

THESIS STATEMENT

The roadmap for your paper

It is like the foundation of a house.



CLAIM + REASON

Your thesis statement is usually in the last sentence of your introduction.

How to write a thesis statement:

1. Ask a question about your topic.

Ex: Who is Ms. Scott? What is significant about Ms. Scott?

2. Think of some answers to your question.

Ex: Ms. Scott is a great teacher who makes learning fun.

She can relate to her students.

She is strongly devoted to her students' academic progress.

She has high expectations for students.

3. Combine and Refine 1 and 2:

Ex: Ms. Scott is an exceptional, devoted teacher because she makes learning fun and helps students achieve high expectations.

4. Check:

Is it specific?

Weak: Sylvia Plath was an amazing poet.

Good: Sylvia Plath's life-long battle with depression enabled her to be a powerful writer and advance the genre of confessional poetry.

Did you answer how or why?

Weak: In this paper, I will discuss how Mozart's life made significant contributions to music.

Good: Mozart's extraordinary talent and privileged upbringing enabled him to change the world with his music.

Avoid stating a fact.

Weak: Neil Armstrong had a great influence on space exploration.

Good: Because of Neil Armstrong's curiosity for celestial structures and his acute engineering skills, he made it possible for the U.S. to become a leader in space exploration.

Sample Outline with Labels

Thesis Statement

Lady Bird Johnson's dedication led to a successful career as a business woman and First Lady.

- I. Early Years Heading
 - a. Family Topic of Paragraph
 - i. Father owned a general store
 - ii. Mother died when she was five years old
 - iii. Nickname from nurse maid} Supporting Details
 - b. Lady Bird Johnson was very smart and shy.
 - i. Graduated when she was 15
 - ii. Let grades slide so she didn't have to give a speech
 - iii. Received two degrees (history and journalism)
- II. Middle Years
 - a. Marriage and career
 - i. Met and married Lyndon Johnson in ten weeks
 - ii. Bought a radio station
 - 1. Expanded the radio station to television
 - 2. Turned out to be the Johnson's best investment
 - b. Vice President's Wife to First Lady
 - i. Her hard work helped Kennedy and Johnson win the election
 - 1. She won 7 states
 - ii. Was with the Kennedys when the assassination took place
 - iii. Many projects as First Lady
 - 1. Beautification of the White House and nation
- III. Later Years
 - a. Extremely active until the last few years of her life
 - i. Passionate about landscape and the environment
 - 1. Argued bills to limit billboards
 - ii. suffered two strokes and eventually passed away from natural causes
- IV. Significance
 - a. Greatest contributions
 - i. Eased some of the pain from the assassination
 - ii. The first First Lady to establish her own agendas and hire her own staff.

Engaging the Reader Sample Paragraphs

Shocking Statement

Engaging Strategy

Surprisingly, “Lady Bird” is the name of one of the former First Ladies of the United States of America. It might not have been the name she was given at birth, but it is what everyone called her. She even signed her marriage certificate “Bird.” Just as her nickname was remarkable, so was the woman. Groomed from a young age by her father to be an independent, self-starting woman, she was a hard worker and extremely dedicated to the people and things in which she believed. Lady Bird Johnson’s dedication led to a successful career as a business woman and First Lady.

Intro of Person

Thesis

List

Engaging Strategy

Passion. Intelligence. Drive. These are only a few of the qualities that can be attributed to the passionate, brilliant entrepreneur and First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson. Groomed from a young age by her father to be an independent, self-starting woman, she was a hard worker and extremely dedicated to the people and things in which she believed. Lady Bird Johnson’s dedication led to a successful career as a business woman and First Lady.

Intro of Person

Thesis

Fact

Engaging Strategy

Because of Lady Bird Johnson, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, won the election. As the wife of the would-be Vice President, Mrs. Johnson traveled for 71 days speaking at 150 different events. She helped them win seven states. Groomed from a young age by her father to be an independent, self-starting woman, she was a hard worker and extremely dedicated to the people and things in which she believed. Lady Bird Johnson’s dedication led to a successful career as a business woman and First Lady.

Intro of Person

Thesis

Question

Engaging Strategy

Intro of Person

What more could a nation want in a First Lady than one who is intelligent, driven, and hard-working? These are only a few of the qualities that can be attributed to the entrepreneur and First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson. Groomed from a young age by her father to be an independent, self-starting woman, she was a hard worker and extremely dedicated to the people and things in which she believed. Lady Bird Johnson's dedication led to a successful career as a business woman and First Lady.

Thesis

Quote

Engaging Strategy

Intro of Person

Lady Bird Johnson once said, "The First Lady is an unpaid public servant elected by one person -- her husband." And her husband chose her to be his wife after only ten weeks of knowing each other. But, Lady Bird Johnson was ready. Groomed from a young age by her father to be an independent, self-starting woman, she was a hard worker and extremely dedicated to the people and things in which she believed. Lady Bird Johnson's dedication led to a successful career as a business woman and First Lady.

Thesis

Sample Concluding Paragraphs

Summary

While there have been forty-four First Ladies to date, Lady Bird Johnson, set herself apart as an independent woman of her time. She was not intimidated by her husband's position, nor did she hide in his shadow. She was a gifted business woman with a tireless work ethic. During her lifetime, Lady Bird Johnson was an inspiration to young women.

Quotation

Lady Bird stated, "To me...beautification means our total concern for the physical and human quality we pass on to our children and the future." She exemplified this statement through her initiation of numerous projects that benefited youth and environmental issues. These projects were benefited by her business and political acumen.

Question

How should Lady Bird Johnson be remembered? Lady Bird Johnson, set herself apart as an independent woman of her time. She was a gifted business woman with a tireless work ethic. During her lifetime, Lady Bird Johnson was an inspiration to young women.

Strong Statement

Strong woman, strong agenda. While her husband's contributions are prominently recorded in history, Lady Bird Johnson was influential in making them happen. Additionally, she made her own contributions as First Lady, by supporting several initiatives such as the "war on poverty," the Head Start Program, and environmental beautification projects.

Parenthetical Citation Guide

One author

Use author's last name and page number where the quote was found:

Scout admits lying to her father when she says, "I said I could like it very much, which was a lie, but one must lie under certain circumstances" (Lee 128).

No comma
between name
and page number

Punctuation
follows citation.

If you use the author's name in your sentence leading up to the quote, do not include the name in your citation:

In Harper Lee's book, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Scout admits lying to her father when she says, "I said I could like it very much, which was a lie, but one must lie under certain circumstances" (128).

Two authors

Use the authors' last names in the text or in the parenthetical citation.

Example: "Evidence used to support ideas in an academic essay is usually paraphrased" (Dollahite and Haun 77).

Three or more authors

Use the first author's last name and "et al."

Example: The results for the second year improved by 47% (Smith et al.).

No author is identified

If a source does not include an author's name, use the title or an abbreviated title in the text or parenthetical citation.

Example: Even though Orwell died at the young age of 46, his ideas and opinions have lived on through his work ("George Orwell").

Citing Information Without an Original Source

If you did not read the original source and you cannot find the original source, use the parenthetical abbreviation "qtd." to indicate a quote used.

Example: ABC News reported that "even users who said they didn't like tap water had no problem with it when they didn't know what it was" (qtd. in Money Crashers).

Parenthetical Citation Practice

Place the correct parenthetical citation after each quote.

1. Wanting students to fully understand writing, Gallagher desires that students “move beyond simply telling me what the text says... and to recognize *how* the text is constructed”

From *Write Like This* by Kelly Gallagher on page 20

2. A summary is more than just recounting words and ideas, it can give “insight into how a student read and understood a text”

From *Summarizing, Paraphrasing, and Retelling* by Emily Kissner on page 2.

3. Paris, a city known for being “unwelcome to foreigners,” is hoping it won’t lose tourists to friendlier destinations

From “How to Be Nice to Tourists” found on www.time.com

Embedded Quotes

Identify which quotes are embedded correctly and which quotes are not (E=embedded, NE=not embedded). Rewrite the sentences that are not embedded correctly.

4. According to Foulkes’ study, dreams may express “profound aspects of personality” (184).
E or NE

-
-
5. Sam Gribley understood “that hickory sticks, boiled dry, leave a salty residue.” (George 52)
E or NE

Now practice embedding a quote with your own paper. Don’t forget to add the parenthetical citation. Some possible sentence starters:

1. For instance, according to (author), “—.”
2. (author) writes, “—.”
3. In the article, (name the article), (the author) maintains that, “—.”
4. This is addressed in an excerpt from (source), “—.”
5. (The author) explains, “—.”

Sentence Fluency Practice

Emphasis – to show importance or to provide an example

Directions: Write a sentence using the following transition words.

1. Particularly

Example: The civilizations of Mesopotamia can be credited for many inventions. One invention that *particularly* helped to advance the civilizations was the wheel.

2. Indeed

Example: The importance of literacy was shared throughout the region.

Example: *Indeed*, the invention of the chariot helped advance their empire.

Effect – to show effect

3. Eventually

Example: Early settlers in Mesopotamia gathered in small villages and towns. *Eventually*, these towns became large cities.

4. For this reason

Example: Mesopotamia is where people first began to write. *For this reason*, it is often considered the place where history began.

5. As a result

Example: *As a result* of King Hammarubi's reign, Babylonians had to abide by 282 strict laws.

Revision: Classification

Name: _____

Date: _____

Peer Reviser 1: _____

Peer Reviser 2: _____

Rubric Score

Peer 1

Peer 2

Genre Chart	
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Engages the reader and establishes a clear thesis

Suggestion for improvement: _____

Categorizes information with headings

Suggestion for improvement: _____

Develops topic with facts, definitions, details, quotations, and examples

Suggestion for improvement: _____

Uses academic language that shows an awareness of audience

Suggestion for improvement: _____

Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings

Suggestion for improvement: _____

Includes graph or illustration to aid comprehension

Suggestion for improvement: _____

Concludes with a summary of the main points

Suggestion for improvement: _____

Editing Checklist

Name: _____

Date: _____

Peer Editor 1: _____

Peer Editor 2: _____

Peer 1

Peer 2

- | | | |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 1. Paper includes name, teacher’s name, class name, due date, and title |
| _____ | _____ | 2. Correct punctuation at the end of each sentence |
| _____ | _____ | 3. Correct capitalization (beginning of sentences and proper nouns) |
| _____ | _____ | 4. Correct spelling, including “No Excuse” words |
| _____ | _____ | 5. Paragraphs indented ½ inch |
| _____ | _____ | 6. Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, one-inch margins, double-spaced |
| _____ | _____ | 7. _____
<i>(Grammar focus for the class)</i> |
-
-

Editing Checklist

Name: _____

Date: _____

Peer Editor 1: _____

Peer Editor 2: _____

Peer 1

Peer 2

- | | | |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 1. Paper includes name, teacher’s name, class name, due date, and title |
| _____ | _____ | 2. Correct punctuation at the end of each sentence |
| _____ | _____ | 3. Correct capitalization (beginning of sentences and proper nouns) |
| _____ | _____ | 4. Correct spelling, including “No Excuse” words |
| _____ | _____ | 5. Paragraphs indented ½ inch |
| _____ | _____ | 6. Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, one-inch margins, double-spaced |
| _____ | _____ | 7. _____
<i>(Grammar focus for the class)</i> |

Bibliography/Works Cited Guide

A **Bibliography** lists all the materials used in research, whether **cited** or **not**. **Works Cited** identifies the sources used, and therefore cited.

Helpful Website to Format Bibliographies/Works Cited: <https://www.scribbr.com/mla/website-citation/>

Each entry follows a template of nine core elements about the source. Sources are listed alphabetically.

	Website	Article	Book
Author.	Author(s) and/or editor(s).	Author(s).	Author(s) and/or editor(s).
Title of Source.	“Web Page or Article Title.”	“Article Title: And Subtitle if Included.”	<i>Book Title: And Subtitle if Included.</i>
Title of Container,	<i>Title of the Website,</i>	<i>Title of Journal, Newspaper, or Magazine,</i>	
Other Contributors,	Other Contributors (if applicable),	Editor(s) (if applicable/relevant),	Other Contributors (if applicable),
Version,			Edition (if applicable),
Number,		vol. #, no. #,	Volume (if applicable)
Publisher,	Publisher (if applicable/available),		Publisher (shortened name),
Publication Date,	Publication Date, or Accessed Date	Publication Date,	Publication Date,
Location.	URL.	Page number (p.) or page range (pp.).	Page number (p.) or page range (pp.).

Author.

1 author: Last name, first name

Gladwell, Malcolm

2 authors: Follow the order that is used in the source

Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner

3 or more authors: Name the first author followed by “et al.”

Smith, Theresa, et al.

Examples:

Article from a website:

Sengupta, Somini. “Global Warming Is Helping to Wipe Out Coffee in the Wild.” *The New York Times*, 16 Jan. 2019, www.nytimes.com/2019/01/16/climate/climate-change-coffee.html.

How it’s referenced in your paper: (Sengupta)

YouTube video:

Robinson, Ken. “Do Schools Kill Creativity?” *YouTube*, Uploaded by TED, 6 Jan. 2007. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iG9CE55wbtY>

How it’s referenced in your paper: (Robinson 00:43-02:17)

Book by two authors:

Gibson, William, and Bruce Sterling. *The Difference Engine*. Spectra. 1990. pp. 20-21

How it’s referenced in your paper: (Gibson and Sterling 20-21)

Classification Assessment

Classification Genre Chart

- Engages the reader and establishes a clear thesis
- Categorizes information with headings
- Develops topic with facts, definitions, details, quotations, and examples
- Uses academic language that shows an awareness of audience
- Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings
- Includes graph or illustration to aid comprehension
- Uses an appropriate conclusion

Write an informative essay about a topic of interest, such as a sport, an instrument, hobby, place, person, occupation, etc. Create headings to guide and clarify information in your writing.

Include the following:

- At least two research sources
- A graph or illustration

Check that your writing reflects level 4 on the rubric.