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	Tries to use an engaging strategy	Does not use an engaging strategy
2 Has one clear topic	Has a strong topic	Has a clear topic	Topic is unclear	Discusses many topics
3 Categorizes information with headings	Headings reflect the main ideas of paragraphs	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, and details	Topic is fully developed with facts, definitions, and details	Develops topic with facts, definitions, and details	Topic is not fully developed	Does not develop topic
5 Uses academic language that shows an awareness of audience	Academic language shows considerable knowledge of topic and audience	Academic language shows knowledge of topic and audience	Tries 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 restatement of the topic	Conclusion restates topic in a different way	Conclusion restates the topic	Conclusion does not restate the topic	Does not have a conclusion
9 Correct conventions support meaning	Minor 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

Classification Research Guide

Topic:_____

_____

History of the Holiday

When is this holiday?_____

Who started celebrating it?_____

When was it started?_____

Why was it started?_____

How do people celebrate it?_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Significance

Why is the holiday important?_____

_____

Details (at least three)_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Source Information

Name of Author(s):_____

Title of Article:_____

Website/Book Title and Date Published:_____

URL:_____

Classification Outline

Topic:_____

Heading:_____

Topic Sentence:

_____

_____

Supporting Details:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Heading:_____

Topic Sentence:

_____

_____

Supporting Details:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Engaging the Reader Sample Paragraphs

Shocking Statement

Engaging Strategy

The Civil War took the lives of more soldiers than any other conflict the United States has ever been involved in. Because of the death of so many men, communities began to set aside one day a year to honor all those who were lost in battle. This celebration eventually became known as Memorial Day.

Intro of topic

Fact

Engaging Strategy

The United States lost more soldiers in the Civil War than any other conflict in U.S. history. Because of the death of so many men, communities began to set aside one day a year to honor all those who were lost in battle. This celebration eventually became known as Memorial Day.

Intro of topic

Riddle

Engaging Strategy

What holiday is fun and serious at the same time? Memorial Day. After the Civil War, many communities began to set aside one day a year to honor those who were lost in battle. This celebration eventually became known as Memorial Day.

Intro of topic

Question

Engaging Strategy

Why celebrate Memorial Day? What is the reason behind the holiday? Why do some people decorate grave sites and others go to parades? A long time ago the United States had a Civil War. More soldiers died in that war than any other conflict in U.S. history. Because of the death of so many men, communities began to set aside one day a year to honor all those who were lost in battle. This celebration eventually became known as Memorial Day.

Intro of topic

Onomatopoeia

Engaging Strategy

Bang! Clash! Guns fired. Swords were drawn. Many, many men died. The United States lost more soldiers in the Civil War than any other conflict in U.S. history. Because of the death of so many men, communities began to set aside one day a year to honor all those who were lost in battle. This celebration eventually became known as Memorial Day.

Intro of topic

Transition Practice

Circle the best transitions from the choices in parentheses. Explain why you made the choice you did.

1. He did not study. (☐Consequently/ ☐Likewise/ ☐In contrast), he failed the test.

   _____

2. The sergeant could not make a decision. (☐Furthermore/☐Meanwhile/☐First) the troops became impatient.

   _____

3. The culture embraces baseball; but (☐to conclude/ ☐in a way/ ☐most of all), soccer is the favored sport.

   _____

4. Congress could not agree on a decision. (☐Formerly/ ☐Finally/ ☐Before), the President decided to reopen the government.

   _____

5. The aquarium hosts a wide variety of fish, invertebrates, and amphibians. (☐In addition/ ☐On the contrary/ ☐Yet), it also nurtures many aquatic plants.

   _____

6. (☐Formerly/ ☐Finally/ ☐Before) the Mayor could present his solution, he needed to meet with city residents.

   _____

7. The team was having a successful season. (☐Furthermore/☐Meanwhile/☐First), the teammates were getting along quite well.

   _____

Now look at your paper. Do you have transitions connecting paragraphs? Do you have transitions connecting ideas within paragraphs? Add transitions to your paper.

Revision: Classification

Name:_____   Date:_____

Peer Reviser 1:_____   Peer Reviser 2:_____

Rubric Score

Peer 1	Peer 2	Genre Chart

_____   _____   Engages the reader and has one clear topic
*Suggestion for improvement:*_____

_____

_____   _____   Categorizes information with headings
*Suggestion for improvement:*_____

_____

_____   _____   Develops topic with facts, definitions, and details
*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 restatement of the topic
*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.	_____

(Grammar focus for the class)

Classification Assessment

Classification Genre Chart

- Engages the reader and has one clear topic

- Categorizes information with headings

- Develops topic with facts, definitions, and details

- Uses academic language that shows an awareness of audience

- Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings

- Includes graph or illustration to aid comprehension

- Concludes with a restatement of the topic

Write an informative paper describing your city and what makes your city unique (special).

Include the following:
- At least two references of information from a book, article, or Internet
- A graph or illustration

Check that your writing reflects level 4 in the rubric.