

OUTLINING: CLASSIFICATION

Suppose you interviewed students about their attitude toward organized political activity. You would probably discover many different shade of opinion. But if you wrote on these interviews, you would have to ask yourself: "What is the general picture? What is the overall pattern?" As you sorted out the different opinions you sampled, you might discover three or four major categories:

- I. **Joiners**--people who want to belong to a group, be a part of things;
- II. **Sympathizers**--people who come to meetings when there is a hot issue:
- III. **Loners**--people who have stone opinions of their own and are proud of their independence.

When we sort things out into categories, we are using a very basic method of organization: classification. We often organize a paper by taking up on turn three or four major categories, or types, or kinds. We describe each of them and give examples, and then go on to the best.

Using the above informal outline as a model, prepare *three* trial outlines for short classification papers. For each topic, identify three or four major categories, with a brief description (one or two sentences) or each. Be prepared to explain in class what detailed examples you would use under each of your three or four headings. Your instructor may ask you to write a paper based on the most promising of your trial outlines.

Choose three of the following topics:

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| 1. Big-city architecture | 7. Marriages |
| 2. Student housing | 8. Celebrities |
| 3. Different attitudes toward traditional sex roles | 9. Bosses |
| 4. Sports fans | 10. College courses |
| 5. Popular movies | 11. America's allies |
| 6. Sources of pollution | 12. Classic cars |

Trial Outline 1: _____
