**Writing Classification Essays**

**Prewriting** to Focus Your Ideas

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| Student: |  | Date: |  |

**List topic ideas.**

Think of specific things that interest you. Some examples might include a hobby, a sport, a career or profession, a skill, an art form, a place, or an idea or concept, such as

*authority*. Brainstorm as many ideas as you can (at least 20), rapidly jotting them down without judging.

**What Interests Me**

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**Now, complete the following steps to narrow your list of possible subjects.**

1. Circle topics you already know something about. (Otherwise, you’ll have to do a lot of research!)
2. Put stars next to three of those circled topics that can be broken down into categories.
3. Indicate your interest in the starred topics by ranking them. (Place a 1 next to the topic that interests you the most.)

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