

How to Write a Classification (Exemplification) Essay: From Thesis to Final Draft

Step 1: Make your Thesis (your opinion of the top 3-4 types of the topic)

Example: Benjamin Cervera's **Thesis** -- Different kinds of yummy pizza toppings, from basic to complex.

Step 2: Make a Topic (that is the "Point" for Each Body Paragraph) Outline

Instructions: In a Classification structure, the topics (or "points") are in importance order: your top three or four types., as explained in "Chapter 10: Classification, with Exemplification" in [Structures](#).

Example:

Thesis: Different kinds of yummy pizza toppings, from basic to complex.

- I. Cheese
- II. Pepperoni
- III. Everything else

Restated Thesis: Different kinds of yummy pizza toppings, from basic to complex.

Step 3: Turn your Topic Outline into a Topic Sentence Outline

Example:

Thesis Statement: There are many different ways in which one person can make a pizza, with an endless selection of different toppings to choose from.

- I. First, most kids love basic cheese pizza, even as babies.
- II. This brings me to my favorite pizza topping. My favorite pizza topping is as basic as it could get: pepperoni.
- III. Of course, pizza with other varieties of toppings are great.

Restated Thesis Statement: There you have it -- opinions from a pizza connoisseur that has tried pizza from all over the place.

Step 4: Make a Tiny Rough Draft from Your Sentence Outline

Instructions: Put all the info of your Sentence Outline in Paragraph form. You'll have

1. your Essay Title, which is a Keyword or Keywords of your Thesis Statement,
2. your Intro paragraph's Thesis Statement,
3. your Body Paragraphs' Topic Sentences, and
4. your Conclusion paragraph's Restated Thesis Statement

Example:

Classification: Pizztravaganza of Toppings

Intro paragraph: There are many different ways in which one person can make a pizza, with an endless selection of different toppings to choose from.

First body paragraph: First, most kids love basic cheese pizza, even as babies.

Second body paragraph: This brings me to my favorite pizza topping. My favorite pizza topping is as basic as it could get: pepperoni

Third body paragraph: Of course, pizza with other varieties of toppings are great.

Conclusion paragraph: There you have it -- opinions from a pizza connoisseur that has tried pizza from all over the place.

Step 5: Expand Your Tiny Rough Draft, Starting with Intro Paragraph

Instructions: Use the information on pages 22-25 in [Structures](#) -- 1) to start your Intro paragraph, 2) to write your Body paragraph's supporting details, and 3) to finish your Conclusion paragraph.

Example (for a minimum **1000 word** rough draft):

Classification: Pizztravaganza of Toppings

Intro paragraph (100-150 words): Pizza has captured the hearts of many people, ever since its debut. For instance, as long as I am alive, I will always love pizza. Many people like to throw on only one topping, while many others like to throw on as many toppings as they can. There are also people who prefer to enjoy the cheese as their topping, with nothing else. There are many different ways in which one person can make a pizza, with an endless selection of different toppings to choose from.

First body paragraph/ first section (250-275 words): First, most kids love basic cheese pizza, even as babies. For example, ever since I could start chewing solid food with my baby teeth, I have always loved pizza. From Pizza Hut, to Chuck E. Cheese, I will never get tired of that cheesy, saucy, delicious pie. As a

baby, I was always ready to move on from milk and Gerber Baby foods onto solid foods that were much tastier than jarred, squashed up carrots with little to no flavor. Although I did love my carrots, eventually I grew out of them and wanted something more than gooey Gerber food. Babies aren't really supposed to eat anything solid until their teeth are fully grown and even then, the parent is supposed to test little by little on what they are ready to indulge by feeding it to them. If certain babies smile and giggle happily by looking at a slice of pizza, that means they want a bite. If they have enough teeth to break down solid foods, but the parent is not too sure if they can handle a whole bite, they should try giving a piece of pepperoni to test if they can break it down properly. In that process, the parent will also figure out if the baby likes pepperoni. If the baby smiles after tasting the pepperoni, then -- congratulations! The baby will more than likely love pizza.

Second body paragraph/ second section (250-275 words): **This brings me to my favorite pizza topping.** My favorite pizza topping is as basic as it could get: pepperoni. While pepperoni has so much flavor in it that it could overwhelm someone with sensitive taste buds, it stands as the most flavorful topping in my opinion. We can put pepperoni on almost anything to give it a big kick of flavor. People even put pepperoni on sandwiches as their protein! I know that for a fact because I do the same thing. However, there is a big difference from getting a pepperoni pizza at Pizza Hut, than there is at getting a pepperoni pizza at a pizzeria. Pizza Hut's pepperoni is really thin and is much more processed. The flavor is there, but one can tell the flavor has been altered with just a little bit. Now, at a pizzeria, the pepperoni is 100% authentic and usually thick, filled with the real pepperoni flavor. The thicker the cut, the more flavor one will receive. Also, the thicker the cut, the more authentic the meat is. With pepperoni, quality matters in every aspect, due to the fact that it gives out so much flavor and captures the interest of many people who are new to pizza. Believe it or not, there are many people out there that have not tried even a single slice of pizza. If anyone knows someone that has not tried pizza before, they should let them try a slice of pizza with only cheese, just to see if they like the flavor of it. Then, they can upgrade to a slice of pepperoni pizza to throw in a huge kick of flavor. Surely, they are destined to fall in love with the slice they are given, and they will love pizza forever. But we should not give them a slice of pizza from Pizza Hut or Domino's for their first time trying pizza. Instead, they should go to places like Serious Pizza in Deep Ellum, Downtown Dallas, to give them something real.

Third body paragraph/ third section (250-275 words): **Of course, pizza with other varieties of toppings are great.** For instance, I have had many experiences with pizza and have tried just about any pizza with any topping that we can add. While pepperoni alone stands as my favorite topping of all time, I also like pineapple at times. Yes, many say, "Pineapple does not belong on pizza." I disagree, majorly. That is like saying, "Ham does not go on a sandwich." Anyways, I have had many toppings, even toppings that one would not come to think of while deciding what they want to put on their pizza. How many people do we know that would think to put sun-dried tomatoes as a topping? "Not very many," would I bet. One would not find that choice at Pizza Hut, or Domino's. Nor would one find it at Papa John's. Places like Serious Pizza or Old Chicago offer a wide selection of toppings to choose from. These selections can include sun-dried tomatoes, anchovies, portobello mushrooms, feta cheese, orange and yellow bell peppers, corn, gouda cheese, muenster cheese, pine nuts, avocado, as well as much more. Also, there are many different types of pizza that companies make to save someone the trouble of having to create their own. Many places carry Hawaiian Pizza, Mediterranean Pizza, Meat Lovers, Chicken Florentine, and Barbecue Chicken Pizza, as well as much more. The first time I ever took a bite from a Hawaiian pizza was one of the greatest days of my life. I experienced something that I had never experienced before, and that was trying something sweet and fruity on top of my pizza. Ever since then, I usually add pineapple on top of my pizza every time I order one. (I have never been much of a Meat Lovers fan, so I tend to disregard it while scanning over the menu.) Hawaiian stands as my favorite "in house made" pizza. I can never get enough of the Canadian bacon, with pineapple loaded with mozzarella.

Conclusion paragraph (100-150 words): There you have it -- opinions from a pizza connoisseur that has tried pizza from all over the place. One thing that I did leave out is that, if someone is going to eat pizza, the person must eat an appropriate crust that that is never frowned upon. Hand-tossed, Thin, and deep dish are the best options. If individuals choose to eat pizza with gluten-free crust, just toss it out or tell them to feed it to someone who needs it more than them. Pizza is one of the greatest foods ever introduced to existence. Until the day that I sign off, I will always love pizza.

Step 6: Transform Your Rough Draft into a Final Draft

Instructions: Revise for body paragraph structure, edit for errors, and format in [MLA Manuscript style](#) for a Final Draft.

Example: see [Benjamin Cervera's Classification Final Draft for "Classification: Pizztravaganza of Toppings"](#).