

## *Bottle Caps*

Today you will organize bottle caps into various groups. You will work as a group to organize the bottle caps; however, you will document observations individually on this sheet. At the end of the activity, you will write your own three paragraphs.

How many caps are there?

Look at all of the caps. What characteristic strikes your group given all of the caps? (e.g., most are metal, most are milk caps, most are grey, most are larger than a quarter, certain shape ....)

1. Organize all caps into TWO groups, so that *each* cap is placed into one group. What is the characteristic of each of the two groups, and how many caps are in each of those two groups?
2. Organize caps into three groups. What are the three defining characteristics, and number of caps in each group?
3. Organize caps into two groups, so that there is a group that has *only one cap* because all of the caps in the other group do not have that characteristic.
4. Organize all caps into SIX groups, so that *each* cap is placed into one group. What is the characteristic of each of the six groups, and how many caps are in each of those six groups?

Which caps are hard to organize into a group? Why (be specific).

5. Select five caps and organize into a group where each of the five caps is the least like any of the other four caps. In this way, the group is a group of caps that share no (or few) similarities. Draw the caps below. Write characteristics under the caps that will help me see how they are NOT similar.

### *Caps Extended Response*

On your own paper, you will write an extended response of at least three paragraphs. “Extended Response” means that it is more than a few sentences, or a paragraph, but it is not an essay.

Extended responses should have an Introduction section, Body section, and Conclusion section. These sections can be combined into a lengthier paragraph, or separated into three paragraphs. There are benefits to both. Choose the way that will show your greatest sophistication as a writer.

On your own paper, write an extended response that includes the bullets below.

#### Introduction Section

- Describe the cap activity. What items were involved and what was the basic goal? Pretend the person reading your writing did not see the activity.
- How many caps did you have and what was one characteristic that many caps have?

#### Body Section

- Choose two of the five sorting activities from the other side of this paper.
- For each of the two sorting activities you chose
  - Describe the task in your own words.
  - How did your group sort the caps? Was there any disagreements, conversation, or interesting outcomes?
  - What were the groups into which the caps were sorted? How did these groups get chosen by your group?

#### Conclusion Section

- Come up with at least one concluding sentence that reminds the reader of the process of the caps sorting activity.
- Why do you think we did this activity?
- How does this activity connect to English class?

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#### Last Step

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1. Make sure your paper has the correct heading on it.
2. Spend 10 minutes reading your extended response to find and fix errors. It is okay to have a messy extended response. A fixed error shows me that you see and know how to fix the error. A left error tells me that you do not see it. Look at the clock and write down the time \_\_\_\_\_. Now spend 10 minutes.
3. Staple your paper on TOP of this sheet and turn in to the fold at the front of the room.