

Tikrit University  
College of Education for Humanities  
Department of English



Subject: Essay

Class: 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Cause /Effect Essays

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## INTRODUCTION

In a cause / effect essay , you discuss the causes ( **reasons** ) for something , the effects ( **results** ) , or both causes and effects . You might use cause / effect organization to answer typical test questions such as these :

EDUCATION Explain reasons for the decline in reading ability among schoolchildren .

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES Discuss the effects of global warming on the environment .

BUSINESS , ECONOMICS Discuss the housing market and its effects on the U.S. economy .

HISTORY Discuss the causes of the U.S. Civil War .

PSYCHOLOGY Explain the causes and effects of depression .

## Collocations

Collocations are words that are commonly found together . For example , the phrase *difficult relationship* is a collocation because the word *difficult* is frequently used with the word relationship . The word *hard* , on the other hand , does not collocate well with *relationship* .

## ORGANIZATION

You can organize a cause / effect essay in two main ways : " **block** " organization and " **chain** " organization . You can write an effective essay using either type of organization , but you should choose which one you will use before you start writing . Knowing the type of organization will help you present information clearly .

## BLOCK ORGANIZATION

you first discuss all of the causes ( in one , two , three , or more paragraphs , depending on the number of causes ) . Then you discuss all of the effects . You can discuss either causes or effects first . Of course , you can also discuss only causes or only effects . In block organization , a short paragraph often separates one major section from another major section . This paragraph is called a *transition paragraph* .

**Its purpose is to conclude one section and introduce another section** . You do not always have to write a transition paragraph , but it is helpful when your topic is long and complex . For example , an essay about global warming might include several paragraphs about the causes and several paragraphs about the effects , with a transition paragraph between the two blocks .

Essays that discuss mainly ( or only ) causes or mainly ( or only ) effects might have a transition paragraph between blocks of different kinds of causes or between blocks of different kinds of effects . For example , you might use a transition paragraph to separate the personal effects of our increased life expectancy from its many effects on the economy.

### **CHAIN ORGANIZATION**

The other organizational pattern you can use to write about causes and effects is **chain organization** . Causes and effects are linked to each other in a continuous chain . One event ( a change in seasons ) , causes another event ( decreased sunlight ) , which causes a third event ( disturbance in both hormonal balance and the body's natural clock ) , which in turn causes a fourth event ( the development of depressive symptoms ) , and so on . Each new cause and its effect are links in a chain , with the effect of one event becoming the cause of the next event . Depending on the complexity of the ideas in each link , you can devote an entire paragraph to one link , or you may include several links in one paragraph , or you may describe the entire chain in one paragraph . Chain organization usually works better than block organization when the causes and effects are too closely linked to be separated . Notice the chain pattern in this diagram.

### **TRANSITION SIGNALS FOR CAUSE / EFFECT RELATIONSHIPS**

Just as certain transition signals show time order and logical division , certain words and phrases signal cause / effect relationships .

## CAUSE SIGNAL WORDS

Coordinators	Examples
<b>For</b>	Bison were indispensable to the Native American tribes , <b>for</b> this one animal provided them with nearly everything they needed for survival : meat , clothing , shelter , tools , and weapons . ( Note : When used in this way , for has the same meaning as because . ) However , you must use a comma in front of for , and you must not use a comma in front of because
Subordinators	Examples
<b>Because Since as</b>	Bison were indispensable to the Native American tribes <b>as</b> this one animal provided them with nearly everything they needed for survival : meat , clothing , shelter , tools , and weapons.

Others	Examples
<b>to result from to be the result of</b>	The bison's near extinction <b>resulted from</b> loss of habitat and overhunting
<b>due to because of</b>	Bison nearly became extinct <b>because of</b> loss of habitat and overhunting
<b>the effect of the consequence of</b>	One <b>consequence</b> of westward expansion was the destruction of habitat for the bison
<b>as a result of as a consequence of</b>	The areas in which bison could roam freely shrank <b>as a result of</b> the westward expansion of the 1800s.

EFFECT SIGNAL WORDS	
Transition Words and Phrases	Examples
<p>as a result</p> <p>as a consequences</p> <p>therefore</p> <p>thus</p> <p>consequently</p> <p>hence</p>	<p>Workers building the new transcontinental railroad needed meat; <b>as a result</b>, hunter killed bison by the thousands.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Notice the difference between <b>as a result and as a result of</b>. <b>As a result</b> is followed by a full sentence ( independent clause ) and introduces an effect . <b>As a result of</b> is followed by a noun phrase and introduces a clause Examples.</p>
Coordinators	Examples
so	Native Americans began trading bison skins to the settlers for steel knives and guns , <b>so</b> they began killing bison in larger numbers
Others	Examples
<p>to result in</p> <p>to cause</p> <p>to have an effect on</p> <p>to affect</p> <p>the cause of</p> <p>the reason for</p> <p>thereby</p>	<p>Loss of habitat and overhunting <b>resulted in</b> the near extinction of bison .</p> <p>The reduced numbers of bi on <b>had a terrible effect on</b> the lives of the Native Americans who had depended on them for survival</p> <p>Another <b>cause of</b> the problem was the loss of habitat as more farmers moved to the west .</p> <p>The 85 bison that survived were given refuge in Yellowstone National Park in 1892 , <b>thereby</b> saving this species from total extinction .</p> <p>Note : Thereby is most frequently used in front of -ing phrases.</p>