

Tikrit University

College of Education for Humanities

Department of English



Subject: Essay

Class: 3rd

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
For	Bison were indispensable to the Native American tribes , for 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
Because Since as	Bison were indispensable to the Native American tribes as this one animal provided them with nearly everything they needed for survival : meat , clothing , shelter , tools , and weapons.

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

EFFECT SIGNAL WORDS	
Transition Words and Phrases	Examples
as a result as a consequence therefore thus consequently hence	<p>Workers building the new transcontinental railroad needed meat; as a result, hunter killed bison by the thousands.</p> <p>Note: Notice the difference between as a result and as a result of. As a result is followed by a full sentence (independent clause) and introduces an effect . As a result of 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 , so they began killing bison in larger numbers
Others	Examples
to result in to cause to have an effect on to affect the cause of the reason for thereby	<p>Loss of habitat and overhunting resulted in the near extinction of bison .</p> <p>The reduced numbers of bison had a terrible effect on the lives of the Native Americans who had depended on them for survival</p> <p>Another cause of 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 , thereby saving this species from total extinction . Note : Thereby is most frequently used in front of -ing phrases.</p>