

July Writing Topics

Cause/Effect Essays

The most difficult part of writing this type of essay is to establish the difference between a cause and an effect. The cause is defined as a concern as to why things happen(ed), and the effect is the result.

Example:

Cause	Effect
I have no gas.	My car will not start.
I hit my head.	I get headaches.

Prior to writing a cause and effect essay, you should establish the cause and effect connection between two objects or things. You have to focus on the reason(s) why things happen(ed), their influence on society and the consequences they cause.

Sometimes, many causes contribute to a single effect or many effects may result from a single cause.

Example:

Cause	Effect
I lost my job.	I am sad.
	I go shopping less often.
	I have more time.
	I am eating canned foods.

Cause	Effect
I am very good at biology.	My goal is to become a doctor.
I study really hard.	
I get really good grades.	
My parents want me to be a professional.	

Structure

Your cause/effect essay should follow this general guideline:

- **Introduction**

Introduce your topic in a general sense. Make general statements about the situation or the problem without mentioning the specifics. The thesis should be stated in a clear and concise manner. The thesis could be a broad statement stating the effect with each of the arguments exploring a cause, or, the thesis could be a cause, with the arguments

exploring an effect, or, both thesis and arguments can be a mixture of cause and effect discussions.

- **Body**

The number of argument should be decided according to the topic that has been chosen. Each argument should contain a topic sentence which connects the thesis with the first paragraph. The topic sentence must clearly indicate whether the focus is cause or effect.

Evidence throughout the argument must be properly introduced, explained and cited. Provide specific reasons and explanations in logical order until the point is clearly made. Remember to use transitions to unify the paragraph.

Finally, reinforce all that has been said in the paragraph with a summary sentence.

- **Conclusion**

Reiterate the thesis one final time. Reaffirm your arguments briefly. Make final conclusions.

Possible Topics

You may use the following suggestions for topic or develop your own.

1. What are the effects of the illiteracy?
2. What were the causes and effect of World War II?
3. What are the causes of the great numbers of obese individuals in North America?
4. What are the causes and effect of the computer revolution?
5. Explain the cause and effect for the increasing number of women in the work force.

Minimum Word Counts:

Junior 2 student: at least 150 words

Junior 3 student: at least 200 words

Intermediate 1 student: at least 250 words

Intermediate 2 student: at least 300 words

Intermediate 3+ student: at least 400 words

Please put your name and your level at the end of your essay. We may publish selected essays on <http://bceducationcenter.com>. If you choose NOT to have your essay published, please inform your instructor. Please email your final draft to hao@bceducationcenter.com at the end of the month.