

APSU Writing Center Cause and Effect Essay

Cause and Effect Essay

- Explain the reasons why things happen and their results. Provide reasons and explanations for events, conditions, or behaviors. Why did this happen? What happened because of this?

Cause: the reasons for an event or situation

Effect: the results of an event or situation

- **Examples:**
 - **Cause:** Excessive use of antibiotics
 - **Effect:** Antibiotic resistance, making it more difficult to treat bacterial infections
 - **Cause:** Deforestation
 - **Effect:** Loss of habitat for wildlife species, disruption of ecosystems, and increased carbon dioxide levels leading to climate change

How to write a cause-and-effect essay:

Choose a Topic

- Choose a topic that has a clear cause-and-effect relationship.

Research & Outline

- Gather relevant information, evidence, and examples that you want to cite in your essay. Use factual evidence to show the cause-and-effect relationship. Avoid biased or negative statements.
- Create an outline with the quoted materials that you are going to include. Each body paragraph should focus on a single cause or effect.
 - **Example:** Introduction, Cause 1, Cause 2, Effect 1, Effect 2, Conclusion

Use 3rd Person

- write the events and their relationships without directly referencing the writer or the reader. Focus on presenting factual information, evidence, and analysis without using personal pronouns like "I" or "you."
 - **Example:** The issue of climate change has been a topic of concern for many years.
 - **Example:** Deforestation is widely recognized as a major cause of habitat loss.
 - **Example:** In conclusion, the evidence presented demonstrates the significant impact of deforestation on biodiversity.

Questions to Ask:

- What are the primary causes of the event I'm exploring?
- What are the immediate effects of the causes identified?
- How do the causes directly lead to the effects observed?
- Are there any secondary or indirect causes that should be considered?
- What is the overall impact of the causes and effects on individuals, communities, or systems?
- What would happen if one or more causes were removed?
- What are the implications for future research, policy, or action?
- What broader lessons or insights can be drawn from the analysis?

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References

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