

Cause-and-Effect Essay

What is a Cause-and-Effect Essay?

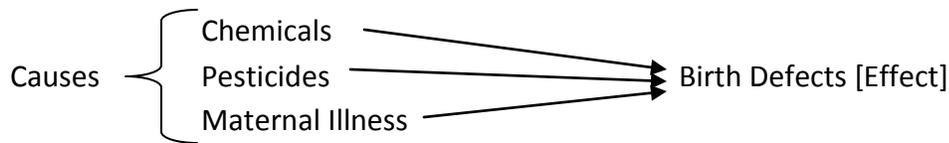
A cause-and-effect essay asks you to explain the connection between something happening and the results of that happening. In other words, you must answer the question, “Why did this action, event, or situation have these results?”

Focus and Organization of the Cause-and-Effect Essay

You might focus on the causes, the effects, or the way the causes lead up to the effects. Your focus will influence how you organize the essay.

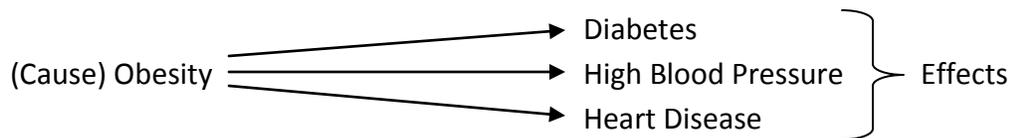
- **Focus on Causes**

- You will explain the causes of a specific effect.
- It is best to begin with a question: “What are the causes of [effect]?”
- **Your thesis will state the causes: “[Effect] is caused by”**
 - The essay’s body will then discuss each of the causes identified in the thesis.
 - The essay’s conclusion will restate the thesis and summarize the essay’s body.



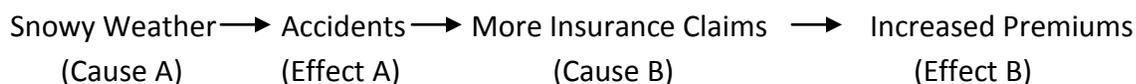
- **Focus on Effects**

- You will explain the effects of one specific cause.
- It is best to begin with a question: “What are the effects of [cause]?”
- **Your thesis will state the effects: “[Cause] results in”**
 - The essay’s body will then discuss the effects identified in the thesis.
 - The essay’s conclusion will restate the thesis and summarize the essay’s body.



- **Focus on the Causes Leading to the Effects**

- You will explain the chain of causes and effects: starting with Cause A leading to Effect A, which then leads to Cause B leading to Effect B, which leads to Cause C, and so on.



- **Your thesis will state the multiple causes and effects.**

- The essay’s body will discuss the chain of causes and effects. Each cause/effect could be a separate paragraph.
- The essay’s conclusion will restate the thesis and summarize the essay’s body.

An effective Cause-and-Effect essay will have

- An Introduction that
 - Tells the reader the subject or topic of the essay
 - Provides necessary background information on the subject
 - Tells the reader whether you will focus on the causes, the effects, or the chain of causes and effects
 - **States a clear, specific thesis that lists, describes, and explains the causes, the effects, or the chain of causes and effects**
 - **States the specific support for your thesis**
- Body paragraphs that
 - Begin with Topic Sentences that relate to your thesis and/or its specific support
 - (that relate to the specific causes, effects, or chain of causes and effects identified in your thesis)
 - Develop each of the specific supports for your thesis
 - AND/OR Describe the specific causes, effects, or chain identified in the thesis
- A Conclusion that
 - Restates the thesis
 - Summarizes the main support for the thesis
 - AND/OR Summarizes the description of the specific causes, effects, or chain identified in the thesis