

CAUSE AND EFFECT ESSAY



What is a Cause & Effect Essay?

In a cause-and-effect essay, you discuss the reasons for something, and the results. Cause and effect essays are concerned with why things happen (causes) and what happens as a result (effects). It is a common method of organizing and discussing ideas.

There are two basic ways to organize a cause-effect essay:

focus-on-causes

Start with the effect and then talk about the causes.

focus-on-effects

Start with the cause and then talk about the effects.

For example, if your essay is on childhood obesity, you could start by talking about the effect(s) of childhood obesity and then discuss the causes

OR

you could start the same essay by talking about the cause(s) of childhood obesity and then move to the effect.

STRUCTURE OF A CAUSE-EFFECT ESSAY

- If your assignment is to write a cause essay on the topic of **the popularity of home offices**, your essay structure will be like this:

INTRODUCTION	Paragraph 1	hook connecting information thesis statement
BODY	Paragraph 2	Cause 1: more comfortable working environment <input type="checkbox"/> not many people around <input type="checkbox"/> working without being disturbed <input type="checkbox"/> no dress code
	Paragraph 3	Cause 2: no transportation related problems <input type="checkbox"/> no traffic jams / stress <input type="checkbox"/> no transportation cost
CONCLUSION	Paragraph 4	restated thesis suggestion/opinion/prediction

- If your assignment is to write an effect essay on the topic of *the effects of sleeping problems*, your essay structure will be like this:

INTRODUCTION	Paragraph 1	hook connecting information thesis statement
BODY	Paragraph 2	Effect 1: disorderly life <input type="checkbox"/> tiredness /laziness/ less effectiveness <input type="checkbox"/> variety of accidents
	Paragraph 3	Effect 2: failure at school <input type="checkbox"/> hard to be on time at school <input type="checkbox"/> attention deficit
CONCLUSION	Paragraph 4	restated thesis, using different words final thoughts (your opinion, summary of your ideas, your prediction for the future, etc.)

Strong Thesis Statements for Cause-Effect Essays

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- * A strong thesis statement for a cause-effect essay indicates whether the essay focuses on causes or on effects.
- * Sometimes the thesis statement uses the words cause(s) or effects(s), but this is not necessary if either the cause or the effect is implied in the statement.
- * In addition, a thesis statement sometimes includes a number, such as *three causes* or *two effects*, but this is also optional.

Focus

Example thesis statements

On Causes

- Many customers prefer to shop online for three important reasons.
- The increase in obesity in our country is due to food commercials, cheap fast food, and video games.

On Effects

- This essay will discuss the effects of watching too much TV on children's family life, interpersonal skills, and school life.
- Most people are not aware of the positive effects of simply walking for 20 to 30 minutes per day.

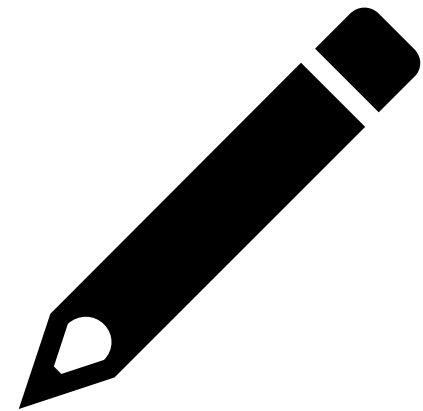
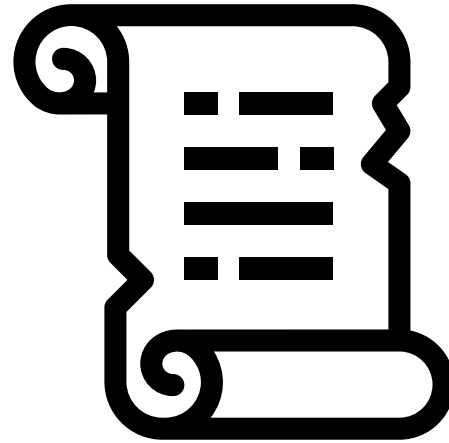
Example Thesis Statements On Causes

- The reasons why there is traffic jam in big cities are _____ , _____ and _____.
- The factors leading to (causing/producing) _____ are _____ and _____.
- The causes of AIDS are _____, _____ and _____.
- Seas are polluted because of _____, _____ and _____.
- AIDS is caused by (is created by / is produced by / results from) several factors but the main areas can be studied in three groups; _____, _____ and _____.

Example Thesis Statements On Effects

- Pollution (causes/results in /leads to/produces/creates) some (various / many / three) harmful (beneficial / important / dangerous) effects (consequences / results).
- X has _____ effects on you.
- There are three/four effects of X.
- The (effects/consequences) of X on Y can be grouped into three; _____, _____ and _____.

EXAMPLE ESSAYS



A Cause Essay

Topic: reasons for / causes of the popularity of home offices

In the past twenty years, technological advances and social changes have profoundly affected almost all aspects of life. People do not learn, work or entertain in the same way as they used to. One of the latest trends in business life is working in home offices. More and more people – especially those living in big cities - have become interested in working in home offices recently. Even though there are many reasons for the popularity of home offices, the most common two are a more comfortable working environment and no transportation problem.

(Introduction paragraph)

Having a more comfortable working environment can be the first reason why people want to have a home office. It is a well-known fact that companies do not always give a person a comfortable working environment. For instance, there may be too many people around in a company. However, at home, people can peacefully work without being disturbed. Another point is that one wants to wear different clothes every day when s/he works in a company. Nonetheless, a person who works in a home office usually works alone, and s/he can wear whatever s/he wants. In short, because of a more comfortable working environment many people want to work in a home office.

(Body Paragraph 1: the first reason / cause)

The second reason why many people want to work in a home office is that there is no transportation related problem. Transportation causes many problems for working people. For instance, in big cities there is almost always traffic jam. Thousands of people leave their houses in the morning to go to work. Because of traffic jam, they suffer from a great deal of stress even before work. However, if they work at home, they won't have such a problem. To give another example, in big cities transportation is a problem in terms of money. People have to pay a great amount of money for transportation vehicles such as buses. However, when a person works in a home office, s/he doesn't have to leave her/his house, so s/he does not have to pay any money. In brief, transportation is the second reason for the popularity of working in a home office.

(Body Paragraph 2: the second reason / cause)

All in all, more and more people want to work in a home office because of several reasons, two of which are a more comfortable working environment and transportation problem. It seems that there will be more people who want to work in a home office as long as conditions in cities remain difficult.

(Concluding Paragraph)

An Effect Essay

Topic: effects of sleep problems among teenagers

Sleep is an essential component of a healthy lifestyle. However, studies show that a growing number of teenagers are experiencing sleeping problems which can have profound impacts on their lives, affecting both their daily routines and academic performance. This essay will explore the main effects of sleep problems on teenagers.

(Introduction paragraph)

One of the major effects of sleeping problem among teenagers is disorderly life. First of all, not having enough sleep or oversleeping leads to tiredness and laziness. According to a study conducted in Switzerland, one who sleeps less than 5 hours or more than 8 hours is prone to spending their days far less effectively than the ones who have regular sleep a day. Secondly, having problems with sleep may lead to chronic insomnia. To illustrate, an insomniac person cannot get sleep for 3 days in a row so he might cause variety of accidents ranging from traffic accidents to domestic ones.

(Body Paragraph 1: the first effect)

The second most important effect is failure at school. As a starting point, a teenager who has sleep problems finds it hard to be on time for school since may have difficulty in waking up or he may not find himself strong enough to go to school. Not going to school regularly may result in lagging behind the curriculum. Moreover, scientists state that at least 7 hours of sleep is needed to maintain one's attention span. The young people having sleep problems cannot pay attention for a long time and this can cause failure at school.

(Body Paragraph 2: the second effect)

As it can be understood from arguments mentioned above, sleep problems have many destructive effects on young people such as having irregular life style and being unsuccessful at school. I believe that young people need to find out the reasons for their sleeping problems and try to solve them if they don't want to experience these effects.

(Concluding Paragraph)