

# Cause and Effect Essays

**IQRA UNIVERSITY**

# What is a Cause and Effect Essay?

The **cause-effect** essay explains why or how some event happened, and what resulted from the event.

This essay is a study of the relationship between two or more events or experiences.

In other words, cause and effect essays focus on why things happen (causes) and what happens as a result (effects).

# What is a Cause and Effect Essay?

- As cause and effect depend on each other, effects can't be discussed without mentioning the causes, and vice versa but depending on the topic and purpose, one can decide whether to focus on causes or the effects, or both the causes and effects.

# Examples of Cause & Effect Essay Topics

- Explain the decline in reading ability among schoolchildren
- What are the causes and effects of globalization?
- The increasing social anxiety in teenagers: causes and consequences
- Causes of Air pollution and its effects on human, plant and animal life
- Reasons and effects of cyber-bullying

1. After the dog bit her, we had to take her to the hospital.
2. Her computer stopped working due to a virus.
3. The police arrested him because he committed a crime.
4. She set fire to the curtain first before the whole house burnt down.
5. If she gets accepted to university, she will become a doctor.
6. Unless she finds a replacement, she will be fired.
7. Owing to the lack of customers, the restaurant closed down this week.
8. Since she is scared of clowns, she never goes to the circus.
9. He passed his first year at university; as a result, his parents bought him a car.
10. She is lazy, therefore she has failed all of her subjects.

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9. He passed his first year at university; as a result, **his parents bought him a car.**
10. She is lazy, therefore **she has failed all of her subjects.**

(c) Read through the following passage, underlining causes and highlighting effects.

I woke up late this morning **because** my alarm clock did not ring. **As a result**, I had to rush to get ready for school and I made a huge mess all over the house. I missed the bus **because** I had to go back home to fetch my cellphone. **Consequently**, I was late for school, and my lecturer was not pleased with me at all. **Due to the fact that** my day had been going so badly, I was in a bad mood and I shouted at my friends. **Since** I was in such a bad mood, they didn't want to hang out with me and they left. After they left, my day only got worse. **In view of** all that happened today, I've decided that I need two alarm clocks instead of one, to make sure I wake up on time in the mornings.





# **Cause and Effect Essays (Strategies)**

## **Unit 7.2**

# Strategies used to Structure Cause and Effect Essays

In general, the structure of cause & effect essays is similar to a classic five-paragraph structure. However, depending on the topic, its purpose and complexity, the causes and effects essays may be organized into two different kinds of structures:

- Block
- Chain

# Block Structure

In block structure, the causes are placed together in one block

while the effects are assembled together in another block.  
There may be a transition paragraph between blocks.

Introduction

Body Paragraphs (Cause1 Cause 2)

Transition sentence/paragraph

Body Paragraphs (Effect 1 Effect 2)

Conclusion

# Chain Structure

A chain structure explains how an event causes something to happen, and that situation leads to another event, and it causes another event to happen.

Introduction

Body Paragraphs (Cause 1 → Effect 1 → Cause 2 →  
Effect 2 → Cause 3 → Effect 3)

Conclusion

# **Structure of Cause and Effect Essays**

## **Unit 7.3**

# Introduction

- Start with a hook; a quote , a rhetorical question or may be relevant attention-grabbing statistics.
- Describe the event or give background of the situation.
- The thesis statement should cover the issues one plans to consider, the main cause or effect of the event or situation, and whether the emphasis is on causes, effects, or both.

# Model Thesis Statements for Cause and Effect Essays

- There are several causes for the increasing illiteracy rate in Pakistan.
- There are many reasons why people exercise regularly.
- Depletion of natural resources layer has many causes as well as several damaging effects on the environment.
- There are three major effects of imbalanced dietary habits in teens.
- This essay will discuss the effects of watching too much television on children's interpersonal skills.

# Body Paragraphs

- The focus must be on immediate and direct causes or effects then state less obvious ones.
- The essay should be strengthened by providing facts and statistics, examples, anecdotes, or personal observations that support the writer's ideas.
- Usage of transitions in the body paragraphs of cause and effect essays enables the piece of writing to be coherent and it is easy for the readers to link the ideas together.



# Transition Signals for Cause

- The first cause of
- The next reason is
- Since
- Due to
- Because of
- For this reason
- The reason for
- Owing to

# Transition Signals for Effect

- As a result (of)
- As a consequence
- Consequently
- Therefore
- Thus
- Hence
- For this reason
- And that is why

# Conclusion

In the conclusion, the thesis statement should be reiterated with the summary of the main points of the essay, demonstrating how they actually support the thesis. Further , the concluding paragraph can either end with an opinion, a prediction or a recommendation.