

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/GRADE 9 AND 10 WRITING/HANDOUT 19

Complete a few exercises in this handout before watching the short film below.

<https://vimeo.com/71867019> (“The Mystery of Flying Kicks”)

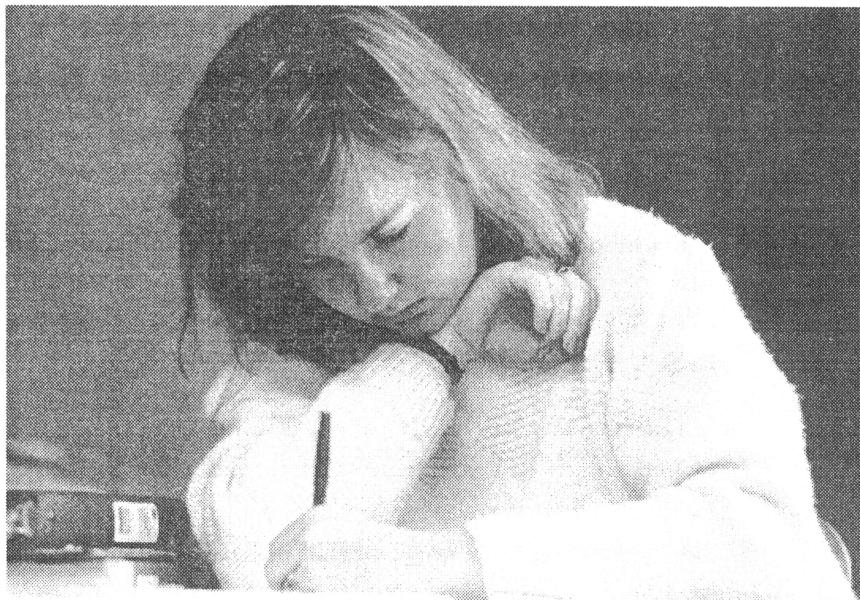
Try to come up with as many good cause-and-effect questions based on the film. In the right column, explain why they are “good” to you.

| Causality Questions Based on the Short Film | Rationale and Assumptions |
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As a class, vote for the best paragraph and write an introductory paragraph in a five-paragraph essay.

given a long form. (5) The form contained many questions. (5) The questions were about her appearance. (5) The questions were about her preferences. (6) Betty wrote that she was tall. (6) She had blond hair. (6) Her face was beautiful. She wrote that her date must be tall, dark, and handsome. Betty went home. (7) She waited hopefully. (7) She waited with patience.

On Thursday, "Perfect Partners" called and said, "We have your perfect partner. He will arrive at 8:00 on Friday night." On Friday, Betty prepared herself and waited for her date. The doorbell rang at 8:00 sharp. Betty opened the door and gasped. (8) A tall, gorgeous man was standing there. (8) He looked like a movie star. (9) Betty left with him. (9) She felt as if she were floating on a cloud. She returned home at midnight, dejected and disappointed. (10) She wrote in her diary, "My date was very tall, dark, and handsome, but he was conceited. (10) He was a bore. (10) He showed stupidity. I'll never trust a machine again!"



WRITING ASSIGNMENT ONE:

Writing About Causes and Effects Together

For this assignment, you are to write an essay with two of your classmates about the major causes or effects of cheating. First, all of you

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should read the sample newspaper articles that follow. They deal with cases of plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty.

Prewriting activity: After reading the following articles, your group should list any *causes* or *effects* of cheating or academic dishonesty, as given in the articles. Also, discuss with your classmates any other possible causes or effects for each instance of cheating and add those to your lists.

Student Denied Diploma Because of Cheating

A student at Central State University who had accumulated all the credits necessary for graduation was denied his diploma when officials discovered that he had cheated on a final exam in his last semester.

An honor review panel of faculty, students, and administrators found John Charles Bullock, a chemistry major, guilty of bringing notes illegally into his final examination in a geology class. The course was an elective and was not required for graduation, but the university ruled that since Bullock had violated school policy by cheating, he was not entitled to receive his degree.

Upon entering college, all students at Central State must sign a pledge stating that they will abide by the university's rules on academic dishonesty. When questioned about his misconduct, Bullock stated that he had been under a great deal of pressure in his senior courses in his major and had not had adequate time to study for his elective course. "I thought that geology would be an easy A," he explained, "but the instructor made us memorize about fifty varieties of rocks. I knew that if I didn't cheat, all the rocks on the final exam would look the same to me." Bullock smuggled into the classroom a chart he had photocopied from one of his textbooks listing characteristics of different rocks. He was caught when his instructor noticed him slipping the rolled chart up his sleeve.

Bullock complained that he had been singled out and made an example of by the university. "Everybody cheats," he stated. "Why didn't the teacher check out the students wearing sunglasses to the exam? All of them had notes pasted inside their lenses. Nobody wants to fail, and it's so easy to get away with cheating in large lecture classes."

Dr. Phillip Stevens, Dean of Students, said that Bullock could return to the university in one year and reapply for admission. His case would be reevaluated then. Stevenson added that it was unlikely that other universities would be willing to accept Bullock because of the black mark on his record. "I had a job waiting for me at Dow Chemical," Bullock said, "but Dow won't hire me now, and my fiancée has called off our wedding. I don't know what I'll be doing in one year. I'm not sure I will ever come back to Central State."

Now discuss with your group the causes and effects of cheating that you found in the article. Why did Bullock cheat in the first place? What effects did his dishonesty have on his life? List the causes and effects below.

| <i>Causes (from the article)</i> | <i>Effects (from the article)</i> |
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Now brainstorm other possible causes and effects of cheating. Can you think of any other reasons why Bullock was dishonest? Can you think of any other effects his cheating may have on his life? List the other possible causes and effects below.

| <i>Other possible causes</i> | <i>Other possible effects</i> |
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Academic Dishonesty Increasing

College and university officials meeting for an annual conference in Anaheim, California, spent the majority of their time dealing with various aspects of academic dishonesty. "We are in a crisis situation," stated Dr. Victor C. Alvarez, president of the American Association of Administrators of Post-Secondary Institutions (AAAPSI). "Never before have students and faculty alike flouted our policies on honesty in such blatant and shameless ways."

When officials compared notes at an opening symposium on "Honesty on Campus," the session had to be extended by two hours to allow time for the relating of many stories of cheating and plagiarism and for discussion of these problems. Among cases cited were the following:

- A professor who plagiarized in three articles he had published and submitted to a tenure committee. The professor tried to justify his action by stating that no one read the articles in professional journals anyway, and that the tenure system forced professors to focus on publication rather than on their primary function, teaching. (The professor was not only denied tenure but dismissed from the university.)
- A student who submitted the same research paper for Sociology II that she had written for Sociology I. "I was busy with my club activities. I didn't think the professors really read the papers, anyway," she said. (The student was given an "F" for the course.)

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- A college senior who operated a business buying old research papers and selling them to other students for a profit. He explained that college was expensive and he was trying to help out his parents by paying some of the costs himself. "There are books published on how to cheat in college, with sample term papers and everything," the student complained. "I didn't think I was doing anything illegal. Besides, I only dealt in quality products—papers that had received A or B+ grades. I was offering a valuable service to students who are under pressure to succeed." (This student has been expelled from school and is currently under investigation by the local district attorney's office.)

- A group of foreign students who organized what they called "Study Groups" to help each other get good grades. They wrote papers for each other, shared answers on exams, and even took tests for each other. "The classes are so large that the professors don't know who everyone is, so it was easy," said one group member. "In our culture, it is a terrible loss of face to fail," explained another. "We do not feel we were being dishonest. We were helping each other." (These students were suspended from school and are currently appealing this action.)

AAAPSI officials said that they are working on strategies that will reverse the trend toward increased academic dishonesty. Dr. Alvarez summarized the discussions of the symposium, "Students and teachers alike must be taught that honesty is valued at every institution of higher learning and that cheating will not be tolerated at any level. Faculty members must be given enough flexibility so that their research will not leave them with insufficient time and energy for their teaching duties. International students must learn that we value academic honesty in this culture. All students must come to understand and believe that the learning that takes place on campus is vastly more important than grades earned."

Now discuss with your group the various reasons why people mentioned in the article cheated and the effects academic dishonesty has had on the lives of the people involved. List causes and effects below.

| <i>Causes (from the article)</i> | <i>Effects (from the article)</i> |
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Now brainstorm other possible reasons why the people in the article may have cheated and other possible effects their dishonesty may have on their lives. List these possible causes and effects on the following page.

| <i>Other possible causes</i> | <i>Other possible effects</i> |
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Decide on your focus: As a group, discuss whether you want to focus your attention on the causes or effects of academic dishonesty. If you decide to focus on the *causes* of cheating, review the articles for good examples you might include. You can use supporting information from the articles or from your brainstorming discussions on other possible causes. If you decide to focus on the *effects* of cheating on people's lives or on society, you may also refer to the articles and your brainstorming discussions. You will be asked to choose the *three* causes or effects that you think are the most important. Keeping this organization in mind, write a thesis statement that emphasizes what the focus of your essay will be.

Thesis: _____

Plan and outline your essay: Following your discussions with your partners, decide which three causes or effects of cheating you will include in your essay. Write an outline that includes the three major causes or effects you will discuss. Decide what material you will use to support your thesis statement, remembering that you may refer to the articles and/or use your own ideas. Add these details to your outline. You may use the following outline as a guide.

Thesis: _____

I. Cause or effect 1

- A. Supporting idea 1
- B. Supporting idea 2
- C. Supporting idea 3

II. Cause or effect 2

- A. Supporting idea 1
- B. Supporting idea 2
- C. Supporting idea 3

III. Cause or effect 3

- A. Supporting idea 1
- B. Supporting idea 2
- C. Supporting idea 3

WRITIN

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Write the introduction with your classmates: Review the types of introductions listed in Chapter Two to decide on an appropriate one.

Write the body of the essay: Each student should take one cause or effect and develop the paragraph related to that one, using the ideas you generated in your group.

Write the conclusion with your classmates: You might want to make a recommendation to students about how to handle situations in which they are tempted—or urged by classmates—to cheat. If you are focusing on effects, your group could decide to write a prediction about what might happen to a person who cheats. Review the section on conclusions in Chapter Three if necessary.

Read and revise the essay: Do this with your peers. Does any part of the essay need to be changed or strengthened? Have you adequately supported your thesis statement?

Edit the essay: Each member of the group should edit the essay for errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure before the final draft is turned in to the teacher.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT TWO:

Writing About Causes and Effects on Your Own

After a class discussion on one of the following topics, write an essay. Use cause/effect analysis in supporting your topic. As you plan, think about the order of your supporting ideas. As you write, try to use appropriate indicators and transitions between ideas. Share your draft with a partner, asking if the cause/effect relationship is clear and if supporting material is adequate. Edit your draft for spelling, punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure.

Topics:

1. Climate has a great effect on culture, influencing its architecture, the clothes people wear, the vegetation, people's social activities, and so forth. Think of other ways in which climate affects culture. Discuss.
2. Natural disasters, such as hurricanes, floods or fires, and man-made disasters, such as war, can have a devastating effect on a country or an individual. Have you witnessed the effects of any such disaster? Discuss.