Cause/Effect Research Requirements Running Start English/Halvorson

**Purpose:** Your essay should lead to a call for action based on patterns of cause and effect that you have perceived. Why should we care about the issue that you have presented in your paper?

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. The topic should be covered in 3-4 pages (that means your content reaches all the way to the bottom on your third page, minimum. This ranges does NOT include the Works Cited page).
2. Write a causes OR effects essay, not both. However, you need to mention the causes in the introduction of an effects essay or the effects in the conclusion of a causes essay.

To determine causes ask “Why did this happen”?

To determine effects ask “What happened because of this?”

1. Approximately 2/3 of your paper must be your own analysis of the information you collected during your research. Up to 1/3 of your paper may be quoted or paraphrased information, properly cited. Use the same rules as you have for your research papers in English classes: MLA format.
2. Your paper must be typed, and include a Works Cited page documenting research from 3 reliable sources to support your discussion. Encyclopedias or Wikipedia are not sources.

IMPORTANT: Your paper is more than a report of facts. You are analyzing the information you find about your topic and presenting your “take” or “spin” on the issue. What do you think about this issue? Is your topic a good or bad thing to have? Are there dangers involved if your topic is left unchecked? Are there undeniable positive benefits to your topic? What do you want your audience to think or believe by the end of your paper?

**Notecard requirements:**

1. Validate your source’s credibility before you take notes.

A credible source means that you can determine the author, publishing company, purpose, and you can verify that the author has written other pieces that provide information to notable publishers. Websites ending in .gov, .org, and .edu are typically valid, but should be checked for validity by completing further research on the author and publication. Databases (SIRS, Global Issues in Context) are valid. Websites associated with notable magazines and newspapers are typically valid as well (Time, US News and World Reports, The New York Times, etc…)

2. Set up a system for notetaking

You will be required to use NoodleTools to organize your research and citations. NoodleTools is a digital tool featured on the MHS library website. Visit the Cause/Effect paper resource page to view three tutorials covering the features of NoodleTools.

3. Grading

A. You must take notes from at least three different sources (each article within a database is considered a different source).

B. By the due date you must have at least 25 digital notecards worth of notes clearly labeled with a title, source and page number (if applicable).

C. You will also be graded on the quality of your notetaking. This is accomplished by conferencing with the teacher at some point during your research process.